



PENN STATE





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|-----|---------------------|----------------|----|
| No. | Name | Position/Elig. | |
| 1 | KJ Hamler | WR/So. | |
| 2 | Keaton Ellis | CB/Fr. | |
| 3 | Donovan Johnson | CB/So. | |
| 3 | Ricky Slade | RB/So. | |
| 4 | Journey Brown | RB/So. | |
| 5 | Tariq Castro-Fields | CB/Jr. | |
| 5 | Jahan Dotson | WR/Jr. | |
| 6 | Cam Brown | LB/Sr. | |
| 6 | Justin Shorter | WR/So. | |
| 7 | Jaquan Brisker | S/Jr. | |
| 7 | Will Levis | QB/Fr. | |
| 8 | John Dunmore | WR/Fr. | |
| 8 | Marquis Wilson | CB/Fr. | |
| 9 | Joey Porter Jr | CB/Fr. | |
| 9 | Ta'Quan Roberson | QB/Fr. | |
| 10 | Lance Dixon | LB/Fr. | |
| 10 | TJ Jones | WR/Fr. | |
| 11 | Daniel George | WR/Fr. | |
| 11 | Micah Parsons | LB/So. | |
| 12 | Brandon Smith | LB/Fr. | |
| 12 | Mac Hippenhammer | WR/Jr. | |
| 13 | Ellis Brooks | LB/So. | |
| 13 | Michael Johnson Jr. | QB/Fr. | |
| 14 | Sean Clifford | QB/So. | |
| 15 | Michael Shuster | QB/Jr. | |
| 17 | Grayson Kline | TE/Fr. | |
| 17 | Garrett Taylor | S/Sr. | |
| 18 | Shaka Toney | DE/Jr. | |
| 19 | Trent Gordon | CB/Fr. | |
| 19 | Isaac Rumery | QB/Fr. | |
| 20 | Adisa Isaac | DE/Fr. | |
| 21 | Noah Cain | RB/Fr. | |
| 21 | Tyler Rudolph | S/Fr. | |
| 23 | Weston Carr | WR/Fr. | |
| 24 | DJ Brown | CB/So. | |
| 25 | Daequan Hardy | CB/Fr. | |
| 26 | Jonathan Sutherland | S/So. | |
| 27 | Jaden Seider | S/Fr. | |
| 27 | Aeneas Hawkins | DT/Fr. | |
| 28 | Devyn Ford | RB/Fr. | |

| No. | Name | Dogition/Elic |
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| 28 | 1 1002220 | Position/Elig |
| | Jayson Oweh | DE/Fr. |
| 29 29 | Henry Fessler John Reid | WR/Fr. |
| | | CB/Sr. |
| 31 32 | Denver Light | LB/Fr. |
| 32 33 | Dylan Forranto Corey Melzer | S/Fr. |
| | Shane Simmons | CB/Fr. |
| 34 35 | Justin Neff | DE/Jr. |
| 36 | Jan Johnson | S/So. LB/Sr. |
| 36 | Makai Self | CB/Fr. |
| 30 37 | Drew Hartlaub | , |
| 38 | Lamont Wade | S/So. CB/Jr. |
| 39 | | |
| 39 40 | Robbie Dwyer Nick Eury | LB/Fr. |
| 40 | Jesse Luketa | RB/Jr. LB/So. |
| 42 | Austin Sullivan | SN/Fr. |
| 43 | Trevor Baker | TE/So. |
| 43 | Joseph Appiah Darkwa | DT/Fr. |
| 44 | Cameron Pica | |
| 44 | Cameron Fica Charlie Katshir | WR/So. LB/Fr. |
| 46 | Nick Tarburton | DE/Fr. |
| 47 | Tommy Friberg | TE/Fr. |
| 47 | Alex Furmanek | LB/Fr |
| 48 | CJ Holmes | S/So. |
| 49 | Daniel Joseph | DE/Jr. |
| 50 | Max Chizmar | LB/So. |
| 50 | Will Knutsson | OL/Fr. |
| 51 | Hakeem Beamon | DE/Fr. |
| 51 | Dalton Daddona | OL/Fr. |
| 52 | Blake Zalar | OL/Fr. |
| 53 | Fred Hansard | DT/So. |
| 53 | Rasheed Walker | OL/Fr. |
| 54 | Robert Windsor | DT/Fr. |
| 55 | Antonio Shelton | DT/Jr. |
| 55 | Anthony Whigan | OL/Jr. |
| 58 | Evan Presta | DT/So. |
| 59 | Kaleb Kongius | OL/Fr. |
| 62 | Michal Menet | OL/Jr. |
| 63 | Collin De Boef | OL/Fr. |
| 65 | Hudson Morris | OL/Fr. |
| 30 | III GOOD IN THE TENE | O 22/1 1. |

| 68 | Hunter Kelly | OL/Jr. |
|----|----------------------|-----------|
| 69 | CJ Thorpe | OL/So. |
| 70 | Juice Scruggs | OL/Fr. |
| 71 | Will Fries | OL/Jr. |
| 72 | Bryce Effner | OL/Fr. |
| 73 | Mike Miranda | OL/So. |
| 74 | Steven Gonzalez | OL/Sr. |
| 75 | Des Holmes | OL/So. |
| 76 | Justin Kopko | OL/Fr. |
| 77 | Judge Culpepper | DT/Fr |
| 77 | Sal Wormley | OL/Fr. |
| 79 | Caedan Wallace | OL/Fr. |
| 80 | Justin Weller | WR/So. |
| 81 | Cam Sullivan-Brown | WR/So. |
| 82 | Zack Kuntz | TE/Fr. |
| 83 | Nick Bowers | TE/Sr. |
| 84 | Benjamin Wilson | WR/Jr. |
| 85 | Isaac Lutz | WR/Jr |
| 86 | Alec Berger | WR/Jr. |
| 86 | Brenton Strange | TE/Fr. |
| 87 | Pat Freiermuth | TE/So. |
| 88 | Dan Chisena | WR/Sr. |
| 89 | Colton Maxwell | WR/Jr. |
| 90 | Damion Barber | DT/So. |
| 90 | Rafael Checa | K/So. |
| 91 | Dvon Ellies | DT/Fr. |
| 91 | Chris Stoll | SN/So. |
| 92 | Jake Pinegar | K/So. |
| 92 | Smith Vilbert | DE/Fr. |
| 93 | Blake Gillikin | P/K/Sr. |
| 94 | Joe Calcagno | SN/So. |
| 95 | Vlad Hilling | K/Fr. |
| 97 | PJ Mustipher | DT/So. |
| 97 | Sebastain Costantini | K/P/Fr. |
| 97 | Carson Landis | K/P/So. |
| 98 | Bradley King | P/So. |
| 98 | Dan Vasey | DL/LS/So. |
| 98 | Jordan Stout | K/P/So. |
| 99 | Yetur Gross-Matos | DE/Jr. |
| 99 | Justin Tobin | K/Jr. |
| | | |

Michigan Wolverines (5-1)

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Position/Elig. DB/Jr. DL/Sr. K/So. QB/Sr. DB/Fr. P/Jr. RB/So. WR/Jr. DL/Sr. QB/So. DB/Fr. WR/Fr. QB/Sr. LB/Sr. WR/Jr. LB/Sr. WR/So LB/Sr. QB/Fr. WR/Jr. LB/Fr. QB/Jr. LB/Fr. QB/Fr. LB/Jr. DB/So. LB/Fr. RB/Sr. DB/Sr. DL/Fr. WR/Fr. WR/Sr. QB/Fr. DB/Jr. DB/So. P/Sr. P/So. DL/Jr. WR/Sr.

DL/Jr.

WR/Fr.

RB/Jr.

DB/Jr.

DB/So.

No. Name Lavert Hill 32 **Matt Torey** John Baty 41 42

Jared Davis DB/Jr. Quinten Johnson DB/Fr. RB/Fr. **Zach Charbonnet** DB/Sr. Jake Martin WR/Sr. Hassan Haskins RB/So. J'Marick Woods DB/Jr. **Hunter Reynolds** DB/Jr. Danny Hughes RB/Fr. Jordan Glasgow LB/Sr. Tyler Cochran DB/Sr. **Daxton Hill** DB/Fr. DB/So. Vincent Gray Jack Young WR/Jr. DB/Sr. Louis Grodman Nolan Knight LB/Fr. Camaron Cheeseman Jordan Anthony LB/Jr. Luke Buckman TE/So. Ramsey Baty TE/So. Dane Drobocky DL/Sr. Jonathan Lampani LB/Sr. Joseph Files TE/Sr. Geoffrey Reeves LB/Sr. Alan Selzer K/Sr. WR/So. Caden Kolesar DB/Fr. Ryan Nelson LB/Jr. Ben Vansumeren RB/So. DB/Sr. Adam Fakih LB/Jr. Ben Mason DL/Jr. Jake McCurry WR/Jr. Andrew Russell DB/Fr. Jared Char RB/Sr. Cameron McGrone LB/So. Peter Bush RB/Sr. Adam Shibley LB/Jr. RB/Jr. Matt Brown **Keshaun Harris** DB/Fr. William Wagner LS/Fr. Michael Onwenu OL/Sr. Ceasr Ruiz OL/Jr. Karsen Barnhart OL/Fr.

Position/Elig.



Name Position/Elig. No. 53 **Trente Jones** OL/Fr. 54 Kraig Correll OL/So. DL/Sr. Carl Myers 54 55 Nolan Rumler OL/Fr. 57 Joey George DL/So. 58 **Zach Carpenter** OL/Fr. Mazi Smith 58 DL/Fr. Joel Honigford OL/Jr. Luke Fisher OL/Fr. 60 61 Dan Jokisch OL/Sr. Mica Gelb 62 OL/Fr. Mahdi Hazime OL/Fr. 64 66 Chuck Filiaga OL/Jr. 67 Jess Speight DL/Jr. **Andrew Vastardis** OL/Sr. 68 70 **Jack Stewart** OL/Fr. David Ojabo DL/Fr. 71 Andrew Stueber OL/Jr. 72 Stephen Spanellis OL/Sr. Jalen Mayfield OL/So. Ben Bredeson 74 OL/Sr. Jon Runvan 75 OL/Sr. 76 Ryan Hayes OL/So. Trevor Keegan 77 OL/Fr. 78 Griffin Korican OL/Sr. 79 **Greg Robinson** OL/Sr. Mike Morris DL/Fr. 80 80 **Hunter Neff** WR/Fr. WR/Sr. 81 Nate Schoenle 81 Will Sessa TE/Fr. 82 Nick Eubanks TE/Sr. 82 **Desmond Nicholas** WR/Sr. 83 Erick All TE/Fr. 84 Sean McKeon TE/Sr. 85 Mustapha Muhammad TE/So. 86 Luke Schoonmaker TE/So. 89 Carter Selzer TE/Jr. 91 **Taylor Upshaw** DL/So. Karl Kerska 92 K/P/Fr. 92 Phillip Paea DL/Jr. 95 Donovan Jeter DL/Jr. 96 Julius Welschof DL/So. 97 Aidan Hutchinson DL/So. **Trey Harper** LS/Sr. DL/Fr. Gabe Newburg

Ellis Brooks has emerged as key contributor

By Ben Feree

Luiji Vilain

Kwity Paye

Brendan White

Mike Sainristil

Brad Hawkins

Gemon Green

Nicholas Capatina

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THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ellis Brooks had a hard time Johnson means to him.

sophomore linebacker paused multiple times throughout his response to make sure he was able to sum up the impact the oldest linebacker in the Penn State program has. But now in his third season with the program, Brooks isn't Johnson's mentee anymore — he is competing with him for playing time. In fact, this season the two linebackers have been splitting reps at the everimportant mike position.

Ellis is growing into what Jan is linebacker, not just as a physical from an experience and from a knowledge perspective," Frankguys allows Ellis to close the

gap on Jan from an experience on bringing energy. standpoint and from a knowledge standpoint."

And as Johnson's Penn State putting into words what Jan career is quickly coming to a close, Brooks is quickly following in his footsteps and learning from him every step of the way.

"Jan Johnson has made me such a better football player," Brooks said. "Just having to up my game and the mature approach I come with to play football. I have to attack every single day, every single drill the way Jan does."

Brooks went on to explain how Johnson has helped Brooks grow as a complete football player and "I think that's the thing, where showed him how to do his job as a playmaker.

"First and foremost I bring a lin said. "That's why being able sense of physicality," Brooks said. to go one-on-one with those two "The ability to find the ball, make plays. I also like to pride myself

passion and it's the biggest thing I bring to this defense and how I play the game."

While they play the same position, the two are very different players, with very different paths to where they are now.

four-star recruit and with a ton of accolades.

Armour All-American Game, was selected first-team USA Today All-State as a senior and named VISAA first-team All-State three times throughout his high school career.

when he committed two days be-

the raw talent to be a big name

player for the Nittany Lions and little bit harder.

fore signing day in 2017. He came to Penn State with numbers with 25 tackles this sea-

Johnson has helped mold in him "I play the game with a lot of a player that is making strides toward that.

> "He is a guy that has a lot of energy, he is a guy that goes after the ball, goes hard and is able to split blocks," Johnson said. "He can make big plays."

Johnson on the other hand has Brooks came to Penn State as a path full of adversity and opportunity in his time as a Nittany Lion and entered Penn State as a The linebacker played in the walk-on. Johnson has been able to establish some of that 'walkon mentality' to Brooks, a player who already outstanding physical attributes. And Brooks is reaping the benefits this season.

The Richmond, Virginia, native Brooks was considered one of has 18 tackles this season includthe top linebackers in the country ing 3.5 tackles for loss. Brooks

also has 2.5 sacks this season. Johnson has put up similar

son, but in Brooks tackles just a

Johnson knows the ins and outs of the Penn State defense and he uses this experience to his advantage.

"I think Jan is Steady-Eddie and really productive, and you know what you're going to get from him, in coverage, in run support and in commanding the defense," Franklin said. "I think Ellis has a lot of those qualities, too. He also has the ability maybe to have a few more splash plays."

But according to Micah Parsons both Johnson and Brooks bring crucial pieces to the Penn State defense and ultimately that is what matters.

"I just think Jan, he's an overall great player. Really a student of the game," Micah Parsons said. "He's obviously the smartest linebacker I ever met and the smartest in the room."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read

the full story.

BACK TO BEAVER

Former Penn State wide receivers coach Josh Gattis returns to State College as the offensive coordinator for Michigan

By Dylan Jacobs THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Michigan offensive coordinator Josh Gattis has plenty of history with Penn State and James Franklin.

Gattis was hired as Vanderbilt's wide receivers coach in 2012 by Franklin, and when he took the head coaching job at Penn State, Gattis followed him.

At Vanderbilt, his impact was seen immediately, turning Jordan Matthews into an elite playmaker and making him one of the best wide receivers in program history.

When he got to State College, he took over a receiving corps that was led by Geno Lewis, and immediately he knew what type of coach he would be.

"He's a very passionate coach," Lewis told The Daily Collegian. "He really cares for the game, he wants to win. And he has a way that he teaches things, the way that he does. I think he's a good coach, he gets guys ready. "He's got a good mindset, and the determination to be a great

ettes, was a part of a group with Hamilton.



Michigan offensive coordinator Josh Gattis before the game against Middle Tennessee.

Lewis, currently a receiver in numerous young players includthe CFL with the Montreal Alou- ing Chris Godwin and DaeSean

family atmosphere right away.

see his family during certain oc-casions, holidays," Lewis said. "He's a really chill dude outside

take a job as the offensive coordinator at Alabama, and now at Michigan, Lewis knows that Gattis wants to keep going up. "He's very hungry," Lewis said.

'He's really determined to keep going up in the ranks and keep going in the right direction."

foe, but there's no ill will.

"Obviously we've got a lot of history with Josh Gattis," Franklin said. "Very happy for him professionally, very happy for him personally. Obviously a great opportunity to go be the offensive coordinator at the University of Michigan. Everybody knows that we were together for a long time...

Gattis tried to enhance that that he did when we were together, and again, very, very happy

While a lot of the offensive players weren't at Penn State while Gattis was here, they still felt his impact.

"He was one of my main recruiters when I decided to come to Penn State," wide receiver Jahan Dotson said. "So it'll be cool to see him."

It's not far fetched to believe that Gattis will be taking over as head coach somewhere with the experience he has gotten over the years. Where he'll end up in the future is a question mark, but he'll be on the sideline of Beaver Stadium once again on Saturday.

Michigan's offense hasn't been great this season under Gattis, but he has shown that he can lead an offense.

There's a strong bond between Gattis and Franklin, but once the ball is kicked off, that won't

"Obviously coach Gattis wants to win," Lewis said. "He wants to beat Penn State. He's the OC at Michigan for a reason. He wants to prove that he's a great OC and show what he brings to the table. I don't think there is any bad blood but Penn State wants to win too."

> To email reporter: dkj5109@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @DylJacobs.



Josh Gattis makes a call from the sidelines during the game against

Akron at Beaver Stadium.

"We used to go to his house and for him and his family."

of football." In 2018, he left Penn State to

Now he's at a major conference



Josh Gattis addresses a reporter during a press conference on National I want to thank Josh for the job Signing Day at Beaver Stadium on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016.

The White Out leads to moments, but not always success And this week, Franklin wants next to you, in front of you or crowd might not play as much of named Matt McGloin stepped

By Benjamin Ferree

"1-0 this week."

is preached to be 1-0, focus on this week, focus on your one job and everything will take care of

But this week is always a little different.

"Next week, we need that stadium and that town rocking likes it's never rocked before," Franklin said following Penn State's win over Iowa.

"I'm talking about like vibrat-

It is Penn State's annual White Out game and the No. 16 Michigan Wolverines are coming to town.

Last season, for the Nittany Lions game against Ohio State 110,889 people filled into Beaver Stadium making it the highest attended White Out game in

112,000 people in the stadium.

"I tell people, literally, I'll have As James Franklin looks out at that eight seconds where I'm might be rowdy and inspire the week, a simple phrase is repeat- you see it and you hear it, but you than normal, the White Out at- This will be Michigan's fourth and the chivilinite that the opponent for the quarterback Denard Robinson. The incredible catch by Aller than normal, the White Out at- This will be Michigan's fourth Robinson in 2013 that sent Penn Robinson in 2013 that sen literally feel it," Franklin said. mosphere by no 'You literally feel it. I'll enjoy it for Everything Penn State does that eight seconds and then you run out and you're so consumed doing your job from that point

> For the current Penn State players this opportunity to play in front of that many fans is a special opportunity.

> Offensive lineman Steven Gonzalez described it as a "once-in-alifetime experience," while Tariq Castro-Fields called it "unreal."

> But defensive tackle PJMustipher was at a loss for words to describe the experience,

> "It's going to be tough for people who haven't experienced it to describe it, but it's like a sea of white, just everybody is wearing white," Mustipher said.

> "Everybody is really loud. And for me, that really helps. And for this defense, that really helps because you can't hear anybody

behind you."

But while the environment

guaranmeans tees success.

This Saturday will be the 12th full-stadium White Out and the Nittany Lions hold a 5-6 record the 11 previous games.

The first ever stadium White Out took place in 2007 when the Nittany Lions hosted ri-

val Notre Dame, and after Penn have an average margin of vic-State won a convincing 31-10, the White Out game has been an annual tradition for the program

Generally, the White Out game is reserved for Penn State's best opponent of the season, so a

a factor as it seems.

"It's going to be

tough for

haven't

people who

experienced it

to describe it."

PJ Mustipher

Defensive tackle

time Beaver for a full stadium White Out, which ties Ohio State with the most times a team has played in a White Out atmosphere.

Penn State has a 2-1 record against Michigan in White Out games.

In the Nittany Lions five White Out wins, they

tory of 13.3 points.

Even though the Nittany Lions are below .500 in White Out, some some fantastic moments in Penn State football history.

In 2010, also against Michi-.500 record isn't terrible, but the gan, a walk-on quarterback

in for an injured Rob Bolden This will be the ninth straight and took down Michigan led by

> The incredible catch by Allen entering State to overtime against the Wol-Stadium verines and ultimately a dramatic victory.

The 2016 blocked field goal return for a touchdown that led Penn State on its journey to a Big Ten Championship,

In 2017, against Michigan, Penn State dominated in the most lopsided White Out in history, after an unreal effort from Saquon Barkley.

And even in defeat for Penn State the White Out has produced iconic moments like last season's 4th and 5 play call, a 2OT loss to Ohio State in 2014 and a loss to Alabama in 2011.

The White Out is a spectacle and Franklin will get his wish, State College will be rocking, but of these games have inspired that doesn't necessarily translate into a victory for Penn State.

> To email reporter: bcf5167@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @BFerree .



Penn State fans sing Sweet Caroline during the Penn State white out game against Michigan at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017. No. 2 Penn State beat Michigan 42-13.

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Freiermuth's value goes beyond the stat sheet

By Caleb Wilfinger THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From a statistical standpoint, Pat Freiermuth has yet to reach the heights from a year ago.

Through six games, the sophomore tight end has produced inconsistent results for Penn

Even though his season got off to a strong start with a career performance against Buffalo tallying eight receptions for 99 yards and two touchdowns in the win — Freiermuth has caught just eight passes for a total of 74 yards in his last four games.

But Penn State's offense has found ways to win, even as one of Sean Clifford's favorite targets has been going through an adjustment period in his first season as the "go-to" guy.

'Even though I haven't been getting as many touches as I did last year, I don't let that bother me as long as we're winning games,' Freiermuth said. "I think I've adjusted well in that I'm smarter, and comfortable within the offense, and that's something that I've been working on since I got



"Going into

games knowing

that the defense

keyed on me is a

new challenge,

but I think I've

handled it well."

Pat Freiermuth

Tight End

is going to be

Pat Freiermuth (87) celebrates scoring a touchdown that was later overturned during the game against lowa at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa on Saturday, Oct. 12.

After a true freshman sea- a stellar campaign in 2019, one against Kentucky," Freiermuth Freiermuth was poised to have receiving.

son in which he finished with a that would justify the preseason team-high eight touchdowns, All-America hype that he was

However, the second year player has found that opposing defenses have adjusted to his tendencies, and are more than willing to take away the tight end's production, even if it means an extra defender at him.

"It can definitely be frustrating at times, but my focus is on helping the team win any way I can," Freiermuth said. "Going into games knowing that the defense is going to be keyed on me is a new challenge, but I think I've handled it well.'

While the attention came as a surprise initially, Freiermuth has gotten used to the hype, especially after receiving plaudits from his teammates, coaches and the college football media across the

As he became more of a focal point for Penn State's offense toward the end of last season, the Merrimac, Massachusetts native noticed the obvious attention he was receiving from opposing de-

"I think I really took notice of it in that [Citrus Bowl] game

"I remember we were in the red zone and Josh Allen looked over at me and said, 'you're not scoring a touch-

down on this one, we know what you're about in the red zone." In year two, Freiermuth and

tight end coach Bowen **Tyler** have consistently worked on how to counter looks that sophomore tight end has been seeing, especially in the red zone.

This new level of preparation worked perfection in red zone situations

against Buffalo, even as touches have been harder to come by in Big Ten play. It would have been justifiable if Freiermuth reacted negatively

Saturday against Iowa was wiped off the board, despite what the video replay evidence suggested. But Freiermuth understands

after his touchdown catch last

that his presence on this team is more than to just grab touchdowns. As a tight end, he's meant to serve a dual role as both an offensive weapon and an extension of the offensive line.

After a long summer of working on his game, the second year starter has not only improved his route running and pass-catching ability, but his in-line blocking has also been an asset in Penn State's rushing efforts this season.

It's a quality that has not gone unnoticed by his coaches.

"I think the thing about him is he does both things well, where you're going to find some tight ends that may put up gaudy numbers in the pass game, but they are not the same type of player in the run game," James Franklin said. "That's where I think he's pretty unique because he's continued to grow and development in all phases of his game."

It's clear that his coaches and teammates appreciate what the young tight end has provided the team, a fact that led to the decision to make him a captain on Penn State after playing in just one full season. After looking up to Trace McSorley last season, Freiermuth has suddenly found himself in a new leadership role as part of

a young and inexperienced offensive group.

The first year captain may not see the ball with the same level of consistency as a season ago. But as

season progressthere will still be plenty of moments when leadership his and impact will be felt, on and off the field.

"He's a very mature kid and is one of those guys that has earned the respect of his teammates," Franklin said. "But beyond that, he's really also aligned with the coaches in terms of what we want, what we expect and how we want the culture driven at this program.'

To email reporter: cjw5768@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at: @caleb wilfinger.

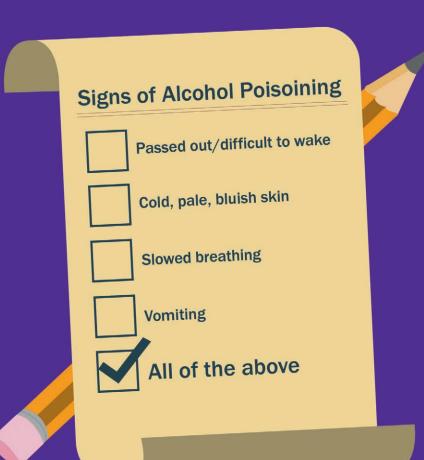


Pat Freiermuth (87) celebrates a touchdown during the Citrus Bowl at Camping World Stadium on Tuesday, Jan. 1.

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Gillikin's success reaches beyond the field

By Evan Patrick THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As a punter, Blake Gillikin doesn't see the field nearly as much as his other teammates.

When he does take the field, he impresses more often than not.

But because he plays at one of the most iconic venues in college football at one of the biggest universities nationwide, he has a platform — and it's one he feels obligated to use.

thing about being a college football player is you affect change on a platform and people who don't use that platform are kind of wasting the time they're given,' Gillikin said.

Maybe it's his willingness to use that platform or maybe it's his success as a punter, but in his three-plus years at Penn State, Gillikin has already endeared himself with the Nittany Lion faithful as one of the team's most athlete. beloved players.

one of the program's best special close. teams players of all-time.

But his success doesn't stop got a 4.0, he's done extremely

"It's a tremendous

playing football and

stage you can affect

change in so many

different ways."

honor, there's so

much more than

going to school,

and being on this

when he steps off the field. In six full semesters thus far. Gillikin has never failed to post a 4.0 grade point average. As a freshman he received

the President's Freshman Award recognizing students for academic excellence, and in 2018 he was the first punter in school history to be named an Academic All-American.

The senior ranks No. 1 in career punting average in Penn State history with 43.17 yards per punt, he's the only player in program history with six punts of 65 yards or more and the only player with three 70-plus yard punts in their career — and he did it in a

What Gillikin has accomplished on the field in his collegiate ca-

but his achievements away from at the hospital.... I'm just really football are even more impressive and telling of his character.

This summer, Gillikin was named a nominee for the AllState AFCA Good Works Team for players who stood out for their leadership in local communities and overall commitment to giving back.

"It's a tremendous honor, there's so much more than playing football and going to school, and being on this stage you can "I think that's the really unique affect change in so many different ways," Gillikin said. "We'll go out in the community and we'll visit children's hospitals up in Pennsylvania, we'll go to schools and read to kids and answer questions, kind of give them our perspective."

Gillikin has proven to be a smart, thoughtful and hard working individual — a hard balance to achieve while being an Academic All-American and Division I

The senior captain also has He is arguably the school's massive aspirations for when his most accomplished punter and time playing football comes to a

"He wants to be a doctor, he's

well and this summer he was able to shadow a doctor," James Franklin said. "He was describing some of the things he sat in on, with saws and things like that — I don't know if would want to do but it's a great experience for him." Gillikin is on

track to go to **Blake Gillikin** medical school **Punter** and this summer he spent as much, if not more, time in a

professional setting as compared to on the football field. "I had an internship class this

summer where I needed to accumulate 270 hours of internship experience, which is a pretty good amount, it's about 30 hours per week," Gillikin said. "So I spent half my time at a physical therapy clinic, and half my time shadowing our orthopedic

trying to get more experience in the healthcare field and figure out what I really like and where I want my career to go."

Franklin and the Penn State football staff pride themselves on molding well-rounded individuals on and off the field — and Gillikin is a perfect example of the program's emphasis on finding passions outside of football.

Regardless of how talented or successful of a player is, a football career isn't something that will last forever.

"I think that's a huge part of our responsibility and our job as coaches is to help these guys as early in their career as possible to [figure out] what they're gonna do in life after football," Franklin said. "For Blake it was pretty obvious, very early on what he wanted to do."

In the town of Smyrna, Georgia, Blake Gillikin grew up with his twin brother Tyler, and Blake's love for special teams was both infectious and admittedly born out of necessity

"We grew up playing every-thing together," Tyler Gillikin told the Daily Collegian. "The only reason I really got into snapping was because he was a punter — it was either I go out and shag for him or I could actually work on something.'

The work that the two put in to punting while growing didn't just pay off for Blake in the end.

Tyler also ended up playing Big Ten football and is currently the long snapper at Northwestern. He said the competitive nature

between him and his brother was mutually beneficial and a big reason for each of their success in their football careers as well as in the classroom. "Kinesiology is a great major

for him [Blake] because it's really all about the movement of the body and it's something that's really interesting," Tyler said.

"I think he's done a great job of looking to see if that's exactly what he wants to do and I think he's pretty much found that that's the path he really wants to take... He's always been interested in medicine and he does want to go to med school, and I guess I'll meet him there.'

junior



Blake Gillikin (93) punts the ball during the Penn State Blue-White game

at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, April 13. studies microbiology at Northtion battle that led to the Nittany

western and is similarly talented in school, receiving Academic All-Big Ten honors each of the last two years. Tyler has been keeping tabs

on his brother's senior season at Penn State whenever he can and was especially proud of what Blake was able to do last Saturday against Iowa.

In that game, arguably his best of the season, Gillikin landed five of his seven punts inside the 20yard line, one of which was at the four yard line, and another inside the 10.

Lions' first win against a ranked opponent on the road under Franklin.

But it hasn't always been smooth sailing for the punter.

Last season Gillikin wasn't happy with his performance and a lot of that was due to his inhibited preparation leading up to the first week.

'Last season was probably my most inconsistent," Blake said. "I didn't really get the preparation I wanted going into the season due to a couple different injuries."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read



RUNDOWN



PENN STATE Michigan



GAME INFO

Penn State vs. Michigan Time: 7:30 p.m. Saturday Place: Beaver Stadium

Spread: Penn State -9 Over/under: 47

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Penn State: S Lamont Wade

Wade has been a crucial part of the Penn State secondary through the first half of the season. Wade has 29 total tackles and has been a big reason why the Penn State secondary has been only allowing 205 pass yards per game.

Michigan: **RB Zach Charbonnet**

The freshman running back is coming into Beaver Stadium averaging 4.8 yards per carry but he hasn't faced a run defense like Penn State's. The running back will need to have a big game to take pressure off Shea Patterson.

BY THE NUMBERS

Penn State's defense has only allowed one rushing touchdown this season.

This is the fourth time that Michigan will be visiting Beaver Stadium for the White Out game which ties Ohio State for the most appearances.

42

Penn State is averaging 42 points per game this season and are averaging 6.6 yards per play.

31

Linebacker Micah Parsons leads the defense with 31 total tackles this season.



Jim Harbaugh, head coach of the Michigan football team, calls plays during the Penn State white out game against Michigan at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017. No.2 Penn State beat Michigan 42-13.

How has Michigan fared in big games?

By: Caleb Wilfinger THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When Jim Harbaugh arrived at Michigan in 2015, it was seen as a watershed moment for a program that had been trending in the wrong direction for the better part of a decade.

Over four years later, the results have not exactly reflected what was promised at the onset.

Harbaugh has been in many big games as a coach at Michigan, but he has not experienced any sort of consistent success in those games against elite opposition.

Harbaugh is in his fifth season at Michigan now, and the Wolverines have no Big Ten titles and or College Football Playoff appearances to show for

He also has a 1-9 record against AP Top 10 teams and a 0-4 record against Ohio State.

As fans in Ann Arbor grow more restless with each week, here's a look at four notable Michigan losses in the Big Ten under Harbaugh.

2015 vs.

No. 4 Michigan State

Michigan had won five of its first six games heading into this highly anticipated matchup against an in-state rival.

The Spartans were one of the field with one second to play. best teams in the country and boasted an undefeated record of their own going into the game. This wave of momentum carried into the fourth quarter, as Michigan State outscored the Wolverines 13-3 in the final period to steal a victory in Ann Arbour.

The loss came in excruciating fashion for Michigan as the Spartans forced a fumble on a botched punt attempt, and Jalen Watts-Jackson ran it back 38 yards for a touchdown as the clock expired.

To this day it remains one of the most surprising finishes in recent college football history.

Michigan would finish 10-3 that season, but this game was one of two losses to rivals that season for Harbaugh and the Wolverines.

2016 vs. No. 2 Ohio State

The 2016 season was primed to be a banner year for Michigan, and the Wolverines carried the No. 3 ranking into a highlyanticipated showdown with second-ranked Ohio State, with the winner advancing to the Big Ten championship game.

Michigan quarterback Wilton Speight was banged-up entering the game, but was able to play through it and was effective in his first game in the Horseshoe.

In fact, the Wolverines held a

After a Michigan field goal

opened the overtime period, a controversial fourth-down carry by Buckeyes quarterback J.T. Barrett kept the Ohio State drive alive. Curtis Samuel would score on a 15-yard touchdown run on the very next play.

Harbaugh would later criticize the officiating after the game, but it wasn't going to change the end

He fell to 0-2 against the Buckeyes as Michigan's coach.

2017 vs. No. 2 Penn State

The last time the Wolverines entered Beaver Stadium, they were trending in a completely different direction than Penn State.

The Nittany Lions were riding high after their strong start to the season, while Michigan came in without any momentum following an overtime victory over Indiana.

After Penn State started quickly, the Wolverines responded with two quick touchdowns to cut the lead to one at the half.

one-sided, with Penn State scoring 28 straight points to hand Michigan its second loss of the year, derailing the Wolverines chances at a Big Ten title. Harbaugh's side would nev-

The second half was far more

er recover, eventually falling three-point lead at the half, and in three consecutive games to in the fourth quarter, but an Ohio end the year with an 8-5 record State tied the game on a 23-yard and a loss to South Carolina in

the Outback Bowl.

2018 vs.

No. 10 Ohio State

This game didn't quite have the level of hype of the 2016 contest, but it was pretty close.

Michigan boasted the No. 4 ranking coming into the game and the Wolverines were riding a 10-game winning streak into Columbus, having rattled off wins over ranked Wisconsin, Michigan State and Penn State.

Once again, Michigan was one win over its arch-rival away from clinching a Big Ten East title, and a chance at the College Football Playoff.

And once again, the Wolverines came up short.

Michigan's top-ranked defense was shredded by Dwayne Haskins and the Ohio State offense, falling 62-39 at the Horseshoe. Harbaugh would later express embarrassment after the game as his team was dominated from start-to-finish in its biggest game of the year.

The Wolverines were slight favorites heading into the game, but the result was still the same. Michigan was sent home with a 10-2 regular season record and an invite to the Peach Bowl, where the Wolverines would fall 41-15 to a motivated Florida team.

To email reporter: cjw5768@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @caleb_wilfinger.

PSU playing 'championship level defense'

By Evan Patrick THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Before the start of the 2019 season, all the hype for this Penn State team was around the defensive side of the ball.

Now, at the halfway point of the season, the Nittany Lions defense ranks towards the top of the charts for a lot of defensive statistics and is arguably one of the country's best defensive units.

Overall

In scoring defense, Penn State is the No. 2 ranked team in the FBS, giving up an average of just 8.4 points per game through six games which trails only

The red zone defense has been an area where the team has thrived, which is a big reason for the success in scoring defense.

The Nittany Lions have more games played (6) than touchdowns conceded (5).

The defense's red zone capabilities were on full display against Pitt in week three when Penn State kept the Panthers out of the endzone on four consecutive plays late in the fourth quarter in a goal to go situation.

"When you put in the work all off-season, you know it's definitely nice to have something to show for it and I think coming into the season, we wanted to be

the best defense in the country," defensive tackle PJ Mustipher said. "It wasn't just one unit, it was all the units coming together, making that decision, and then going out and executing during the off-season — it's definitely paid dividends so far in the season, and we're just going to continue to grow each week.'

Rushing Defense

Teams simply can't run the ball against the Nittany Lions from what we've seen so far this season, and a lot of that is thanks to the ability of the defensive line to disrupt run blocking.

Penn State has the No. 3 ranked run defense in terms of rush yards conceded per game

also been a vital part of the run defense due to the group's speed and ability to track down backs on the outside.

The Nittany Lions have given up just a single rushing touchdown all season, and none in the last three games.

Only one team in the nation. Georgia (zero rushing TDs allowed), has been better in terms of keeping opposing runners out of the endzone. "I think that we're pretty

committed to stopping the run,' Linebacker Jan Johnson said. "We've had a lot of success with that."



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

The linebacking corps has Penn State linebacker Cam Brown (6) celebrates forcing a punt during the game against Iowa at Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa.

> The defense is also tied for in the FBS. The Nittany Lions fumbles on the season.

Passing Defense

Opponents are completing just 57.4 percent of their passes against Penn State, but the air attack is where teams will have to beat this defense if they hope to come away with points. The pass defense has been

good, but not great like the run defense has. The 57.4 opposition completion

percentage is outside the top 30

fifth in the FBS with eight forced have also given up 205.8 yards per game in the air, which holds up similarly to the completion percentage in FBS rankings.

The pass rush is an area where the defense is elite in terms of pass defense.

With 27 sacks on the year, the Nittany Lions are second in the nation behind Ohio State's 28 which is largely thanks to defensive end Chase Young who has 8.5

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

Dylan Jacobs



What to watch for: The last three meetings have not been close, but I don't expect this one to be like that. Michigan's defense will keep them in it, but Penn State's

defense will be the difference again. The offense will be able to just enough at home.

Score: Penn State 27, Michigan

Caleb Wilfinger



What to watch for: After going to Kinnick Stadium and coming out with a victory, Penn State's defense should be just as convincing as Saturday. I expect the Nittany Lions to run the

ball and Sean Clifford to perform well in his first White Out game. Score: Penn State 24, Michigan

Ben Ferree



What to watch for: It will once again be a defensive, physical battle for this Penn State team and once again the **Nittany Lions** defense will cause havoc for the

Michigan offense and lead Penn State to a huge White Out win. Score: Penn State 20, Michigan

Evan Patrick



What to watch for: This game will be determined by which offense can get rolling first. Penn State should be able to do enough on offense at home and the White Out will

enhance an already lights-out defense. Score: Penn State 20, Michigan

Guest Picker: Lindsey Toomer What to watch



offense should be able to score on Michigan's defense. Penn State's defense should continue to hold strong especially in a

for: Penn State's

White Out.

Score: Penn State 35, Michigan

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Oct. 17-20, 2019

Vol. 120, No. 16

BEYOND THE CANVAS

By Morayo Ogunbayo FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In Penn State's School of Visual Arts (SOVA), collaboration is key. Unlike some Penn State schools and colleges, a competitive nature does not follow into SOVA.

While many students are aware of the work SOVA produces and may even have friends in the school, most of the greater student body is unaware of how much work is put into each individual piece. However, if one were to ask a student in the school, they will tell you that their best works were made possible by their

Each student accepted into SOVA's BFA program is given their own small studio area, where they are expected to come for 10 hours or more hours each week to work on their individual projects. In this large studio room, each of the artists slowly become collaborators with one another.

They borrow each other's old canvases or help someone to cover up an old painting. Acts like these are not unusual in the studio, and help to create the close knit nature felt throughout.

If someone were to walk into the studio, they may notice that it is quiet to the point that it almost seems empty. Past the smaller individual studios, they could see all the students at work, with the walls of each individual studio covered in projects.

Students will sometimes use old canvases from fellow artists for their own

"I'm kind of interested with the texture underneath and how that comes through in my painting, so I'm not taking the original canvas off because I want the texture of her paint to show through," Megan Cole said.

Cole (junior-drawing and painting) said students in SOVA are often willing to share things like old canvases, especially in the service of another student's experimentation.

She said that there is a pile in the hallway full of canvases students aren't using anymore, which other students are free to take.

'Sometimes people will just ask 'hey is this stretcher' free, and it's kind of like a used or borrowed type of thing," she said.

SOVA's close-knit nature, however, comes from the huge amount of time they spend in their studios each day, according to Cole.

"It's definitely important to allot an amount of time to be up here every day we're expected to stay up here a lot," she said. "It's definitely really cool to see what everyone has to bring to the table and how different everyone's art is."

In the studio of Jules Edelmann, she was watching an old episode of New Girl while she painted over one of her draw-

"I came into Penn State as an art education major. I decided last year that I wanted to double major, and do the BFA and art education," Edelmann (juniordrawing and painting/art education) said. "So you can apply every semester, whenever you feel like you're ready and you have enough stuff to show."

When discussing the work in her room, she said that some of it was her studio mate's, further illustrating SOVA's collaborative nature.

"From there, all of this is mine," she said, gesturing to half of the room. "But the rest of it is my studiomate's.'

While a lot of their work is for specific projects in classes, Edelmann explained how all of their work goes toward their final project or portfolio.

"I'm not taking any drawing or painting classes this semester, so this is all on my own time," she said.

Edelmann specializes drawing and painting, she makes ceramics as well.

Tom Rosenow, another student, originally started at Maryland Institute Colyear at Penn State's SOVA.

"I started off thinking I wanted to do illustration, but then found out that more physical means of image creation are more important to me, so now I'm deep major," Resenow (senior - drawing and painting) said.

Resenow considers himself to be a plein air painter, which is a French style of open space landscape painting.

"I really like particular moments in everyone here is on the same team."

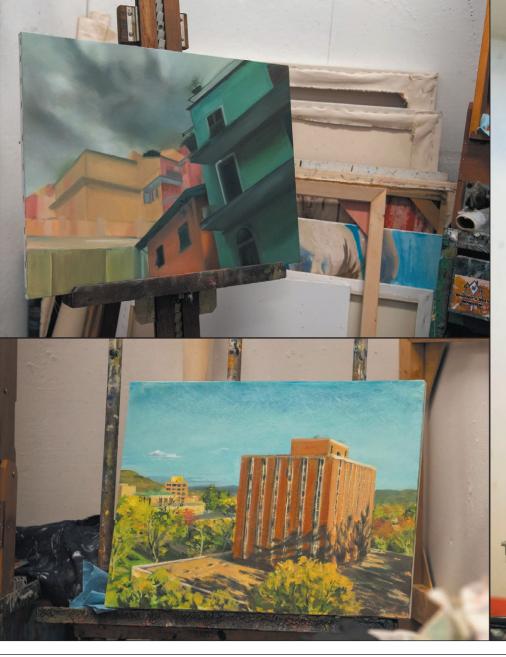
light, which is like a basis of plein air painting," Resenow said. "I really like to get those grander scenes.'

collegian.psu.edu

The energy at Penn State has been diflege of Art, and is currently at his second ferent than at MICA, due to the prominence put on collaborative work and ideas. He said, for example, if he were to ever run out of a paint color, others in the studio will gladly fill his palette.

"Everybody is just awesome, that's in fine arts as a painting and drawing just the general baseline of it," Resenow said, "People are really excited to pop-in and talk about work, discuss ideas we're having, ways to improve our work. At the last art school I was at, people were a little more competitive – but I feel like

Photos by Reagan Kathleen Mulholland and Samantha Wilson/Collegian





What-A-Blast Laser Tag entertains community

By Kyle Hutchinson FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Despite now being hidden in McAllister Alley, What-a-Blast Laser Tag has been entertaining students and residents alike in downtown State College since

Brad Ross, owner and operator of the venue since 2008, said he values the enjoyment laser tag adds to the community.

"Having fun with friends and family at any age at an activity like laser tag is an irreplaceable, beyond-special bonding time that is never forgotten," Ross, a graduate of the Smeal School of Busi-

ness at Penn State, said. Ross had always wanted to

been friends with the previous owner of What-a-Blast, and when he found out the owner was leaving State College and looking to sell, Ross knew he wanted in.

"With a recent Smeal MBA focus in entrepreneurship, it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," Ross said, "I ended my great day job and actively embraced the awesome, fun and exciting laser tag business.'

Although in the middle of a college town, What-a-Blast attracts a diverse group of people to join in on the fun. Students, young kids, birthday groups and even adults

in workplace outings will attend. Jasmine Merrill went with her

have his own business. He had friends to What-A-Blast to celebrate her 18th birthday. She said she had a great experience, and praised the variety of game options.

"I just think it's cool that there was so many different ways to play with all my friends, and the modes could change every round," Merrill (freshman-biobehavioral health) said.

Laser tag games include freefor-all, teams and the intense 'zombie' mode, where one player in the group starts out infected and continues to go after the others until everyone has been turned — culminating in an intense round. She said she was glad to have a good time with her friends, and recommended ity of the gear, the simple yet

others do the same.

"I think it was worth it to celebrate with some laser tag. I definitely recommend for any students looking to make their night exciting to pay them a visit," Merrill said.

a few friends for fun, and praised the environment of the laser tag arena, and the "hospitality" of

"He seemed like a very polite, friendly, extraverted guy, [and] welcoming and eager to help"

Wurapa (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. Wurapa additionally enjoyed features such as the detailed,

comfortable waiting room, and the option to play songs he wanted from his phone.

"The ability to choose our own music as we played the games was really cool," Wurapa said.

Although State College has a Mawunyo Wurapa visited with lot to do, it does lack in handson, active-based activities off campus that are independent from Penn State, according to Wurapa. Especially in the midst of difficult midterms, he said he believes laser tag is a good way to blow off stress and relax.

"It's good, fun exercise and anyone can do it," Wurapa said. "After you'll sleep well, and can obstacle-filled arena, the qualhit your classes hard — or wake

PRE-GAMEDAY BLUES



College GameDay begins setting up on HUB Lawn on Wednesday, Oct. 16 in preparation for Saturday's game against Michigan for this year's White Out.

Inside the world of Opulence

By Becky Marcinko THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The drag scene has gained popularity over recent years, as some may see in reality shows like "Ru-Paul's Drag Race."

"Like most people, my first exposure to drag was through RuPaul's Drag Race," Jared McAnany, or also known as his drag name Imogen Kusama, said. "But I had never envisioned myself doing drag until after seeing a drag show for the first time."

The culture can even be seen at Penn State, and that is because of Opulence.

On campus, Opulence serves as Penn State's Drag Ambassadors. The club holds meetings, drag race and documentary viewing parties, and drag shows.

"The drag scene at Penn State is truly one of a kind," Amara Eke, vice president of Opulence said. "The talent that I've seen come out of State College is comparable to the drag scene in New York City.'

Seneca Hill serves as the current president of Opulence. Though she is not a performer herself, she still is heavily im-State.

was until my friend invited me campus. to go to a Valentine's Day drag show with him during my freshscience) said. "It was at a small venue downtown and was a life-changing experience, they haven't been able to get rid of me

attracted to the care-free environment at her first drag show, and she knew she needed to behas found a family within the drag community, and she believes they are lifelong friends.

"It's an incredibly supportive family-like environment, and



Drag queens who performed in the show presented by Asylum and Opulence stand together at the end of the show in Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center on Saturday, March 23.

portant that they find these com- Race," and inspired him to begin munities and create their own support systems," Hill said.

sible for fostering a safe space on

"I try to ensure everyone feels like they are an equal part of the man year," Hill (senior- animal drag community, because they are, and that they are able to express themselves in their truest form and are celebrated for their differences," Hill said. "I strive to spread the word about drag and Hill said she was immediately in doing so, continue the conversation surrounding societal gender norms."

come more involved. She said she as his drag name Imogen Kusama, also had a similar experience with his first immersion into the drag community at Penn State. He said Opulence's first show in 2018 exposed him to it's something many queer kids more alternative styles of drag

performing.

"I talk about her all the time, As the president of Opulence, but Absinthe's [another queen ny are attracted to drag for the Hill is responsible for planning at Penn State] performance at regular drag shows, workshops the HUB show last year really mersed in the drag scene at Penn and socials on campus. Along was the turning point for me," with that, she hold herself respon- McAnany (sophomore- english and sociology) said." She did evit so beautifully, and I knew that that was something I wanted to do. [She was] something unexpected, something scary and beautiful all at the same time."

Eke (junior- fine arts), whose drag name is Miss God, is an artist who said drag combines many artistic elements on stage.

"As a creative type, to see cre-Jared McAnany, also known ativity come to life on stage combining makeup, performance, and visual art, while also celebrating love and queerness; it felt like drag was calling my name," Eke said.

Eke helps Hill in planning drag

lacked growing up, so it's so im- than that of "RuPaul's Drag helps organize Opulence collaborations with other LGBTQIA+ organizations on campus.

Many performers like McAnacreativity based around the art. As a high school theater kid, he felt his creativity was restricted.

"I wasn't creating anything, I and sociology) said." She did everything you're not supposed to with drag, there's so much freedo on "Drag Race," and she did dom to do really whatever you held Oct. 15. want," McAnany said. "You are the director, the costume designer, the hair and makeup team, all of it is you and the character you create.

> Eke also said she loves drag for the artistry and creativity required.

My favorite part about drag is that it can be self-defined and made to be whatever you want your fantasy to be," Eke said. "It's such an amazing creative outlet that feels liberating to the performers and the audience as well."

However, Eke said she thinks shows and events. Also, Eke the focus of drag should be on the

art and performance, rather than feeling the need to own expensive wigs, makeup, and outfits.

'Not every person interested in drag can get decorated in high quality labels or famous designers," Eke said.

Moreover, Hill said she thinks the drag community is a unique, inclusive place at a school where many find pressure to conform to social norms of football, partying and Greek life.

'I love the drag scene at Penn State and I don't have words to describe how honored I am to be a key part of it," Hill said. "It has grown so much in just the four years I've been here, with multiple sold-out HUB drag shows with hundreds of people every year."

She said she is thrilled at the growth of drag in mainstream culture, because it serves as an exposure to more queer-centric

"[As drag becomes more mainstream], more conversations will be had about societal gender norms and the work that still needs to be done with uplifting our trans siblings and breaking down some of those barriers,

Opulence holds meetings at 7 every other Tuesday Sackett. The next meeting will be

Meetings are all-inclusive, even to people who do not have an interest in performing or knowledge and experience with drag and makeup.

The next drag show organized by Opulence will be at 8 p.m. on Oct. 25 in 105 Forum, and it is

"Drag is just such a unique and exciting art form, [and] I love seeing what every performer brings to the stage, because it's always different and always comes from the heart," Hill said.

To email reporter: rnm5187@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @BeckyMarcinko.

Dance Dance Maniacs step up their game

Lilly Riddle FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Many different sounds can be heard in the Pollock Rec Room students conversing, ping pong balls bouncing and feet stomping on the Dance Dance Revolution machine.

Every Thursday at 8 p.m., the Dance Dance Maniacs, a club for Penn State students who want to step up their Dance Dance Revolution game, meet in the Pollock Rec Room to practice and eat

The dancing can go on well into the night, so as the homeworkers and ping-pongers leave, the Dance Dance Maniacs step on.

Lamar Cooley, the president, said there are three main competitions the group goes to throughout the year to show off what it's been working on.

"One really big one is in Januin the Rec Room. People from all over the world come. Then there's another even bigger one in Illinois, which we all travel to together," Cooley (junior-cybersecurity) said. "There's also a more local one, which happens once a

semester."

will take place at the end of the moving my feet to them." month.

Cooley visited the Pollock Rec Room while visiting the Penn State campus for a program to explore different majors, and saw the machine every time he left from dinner.

'My friend and I gave it a try, and then it just became a routine. I found out I really liked it," Cooley said. Cooley usually practices every

day, but increases his practiceload in the weeks leading up to a competition. Allen Lee, the publicist of the Dance Dance Maniacs, joined

the club after a more drawn-out fascination with the machine. 'I used to watch these insane YouTube videos of people playing the hardest songs in the game,

and I promised myself that if I ever saw or lived near one of ary or February, and it's held here those machines, I would get really good at it," Lee (sophomorebusiness) said. "When I got my first 99 on a song, it motivated me to keep pushing forward with it. I had

been working really hard to not

miss any of the notes, and I pre-

pared for weeks by watching You-

DDR has also helped the club's secretary, Cathy Sun, to relax and meet new people.

Depending on her school work-

This semester's competition Tube videos of the arrows and she always makes time to come played," Sun (junior-digital arts) to the meetings.

> "I didn't even know it was a club at first. I just thought there time she spends practicing, but didn't want people looking while I friends because of it."

said. "It has helped me become more confident though, less introverted. I can easily talk to strangwas a friend group who liked to do ers now, which isn't really somethis together at night, and I was thing I would have been able to do load, she adjusts the amount of really intimidated. I remember I otherwise. And I've made a lot of



Zachary West and Nicholas Muriel play the Dance Dance Revolution game in Pollock Commons on Wednesday, Sept 20, 2017.

PSU shouldn't forget to appreciate College GameDay

∕ ollege GameDay is making another trip to Happy Valley — and students need to remember not to take this for granted and to enjoy the experience.

For the third year in a row, College GameDay will host its show at Penn State for the White Out game. While it may start to feel commonplace, it is important not to forget that this is a unique experience and to appreciate it for what it

GameDay is a rare opportunity for Penn State to be in a national spotlight, and students and fans alike should remember this and ensure the university is represented in the best way possible.

It is also important to be respectful and kind

OUR VIEW

Students and fans should be grateful that GameDay continues to return to Happy Valley

to fellow Penn State and GameDay fans — especially those waiting in line together to get a good spot early in the morning. When the show was

here for the White Out in 2017, it was the first time GameDay returned after the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case and sanctions were placed on Penn State's football program.

Naturally, many were very enthusiastic and excited to see the show return — and this energy seems to have continued since.

But the spirit surrounding GameDay may start

to disappear if Penn State starts to normalize the idea of the show returning every year. Current Penn State juniors haven't experienced a football season without a visit from GameDay. But it's important for that special feeling GameDay brings to never go away — even if the show continues to return year after year as the Nittany Lion program continues its ascension to the upper echelon of the college football universe.

Most schools do not have the opportunity to experience GameDay and Penn State is lucky it continues to come back.

Just take for example Washington State last season. GameDay visited Pullman, Washington in the midst of trips to Michigan, Georgia and LSU schools that have become go-to stops each year. For the first time and, to be honest, the show probably won't be returning to the land of Mike Leach anytime soon.

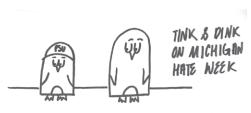
But the analysts all said last year how much they enjoyed their experience at Washington State. It's the small schools — like the Washington States, **Boston Colleges and**

James Madisons of the world — that make the show as special as it is.

Because when it comes down to it, it's the fans and the atmosphere they create surrounding the set of the show that makes it something people want to tune into every week.

Year after year, Penn State football has entirely new teams with new players. But the fans stay the same. GameDay returning shows that the team continues to perform and fans continue to show.

It doesn't matter who is on the field, Penn State fans don't slow down regardless of the season. Especially at a White Out game, the energy of Penn State fans is like nothing else — and it is a great part of Penn State to broadcast to a national audience.









MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

Greta Thunberg: Why we should support young activists

"To those who say the

youth have no place in

their future, I have the

same words as Thun-

berg did for the U.N.:

Madeline Messa

How dare you."

politics and no say in

When asked about their political interests or why they want to see improvements in



the world, people often say they care about future generations. Why combat climate change? So our children have clean air. Why

gun control? So our children feel safe at school. Why then, if we care about future generations, do we discredit the very children that

comprise them? Young activists have been making political headway, but they are often met with discouragement rather than enthusiasm. Greta Thunberg, for example, has been dealt harsh criticism. Thunberg is a 16-year-old Swedish girl who has garnered worldwide recognition for being an

She notably organized a school climate strike in front of Sweden's Parliament, and she confronted world leaders at the **United Nations Climate Action** Summit.

environmental activist.

She was a popular choice when she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, which was instead awarded to the Ethiopian prime minister.Her abrasive words to the U.N. caught people's attention.

"This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!" she said.

While there is support for the outspoken teenager, there is also hostility toward her.

Fox News apologized after a guest referred to Thunberg as "a mentally ill Swedish child who is being exploited by her parents." The guest was immediately called shameful, but the damage was already done.

The statement made a gross misunderstanding of autism spectrum disorder, which Thunberg is affected by, and it outrageously implied that someone under 18 cannot have a mind of their own.

Additionally, a high school chemistry teacher from Iowa made a threatening Facebook comment that he would not

attend a rally where Thunberg would be present because he did not "have [his] sniper rifle."

The teacher was put on administrative leave and resigned

soon after. The comment, though abhorrent, is not unusual. The YouTube video of Thunberg's scolding speech to the U.N. has more dislikes than likes and has many comments under it that mock the activist and use her age to discredit her . Some criticism is tolerable, such as when it is directed at the actual content or means of her message, but a lot of it is ad hominem

On the other hand, there are

people in defense of Thunberg and young activists. Thunberg did not win the Nobel Peace Prize, but her nomination at only 16 years old is groundbreaking.

Fox acknowledged its guest's remark and swiftly apologized for it, and the teacher who made a threatening comment was held accountable as well.

We should be empowering our youth, not wagging a finger at them and telling them they're too young to know anything. They are the future generation that we claim to care so much about, therefore they deserve the endorsement they are promised.

We tell kids to reach for the stars, to run for president, to change the world. But they are rejected when they make headway.

To those who say the youth have no place in politics and no say in their future, I have the same words as Thunberg did for the U.N.: How dare you.

Madeline Messa is a senior majoring in print & digital journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at mgm5413@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at @madeline_messa.

als. Penn State students write

and edit both papers and solicit



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The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and professionadvertising for them during the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday and Thursday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers. Complaints

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PITCH PERFECT

With only one loss in their last 10 matches, the Nittany Lions are proving to be true Big Ten title contenders

By David Pollak THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In recent weeks, Liam Butts has been the star of the Penn over quantity. State attack.

MEN'S SOCCER again tonight for the match against

Pitt was one of Penn State's most balanced attacks against a quality opponent this season.

In their 3-1 victory over Pitt, it was a slow first 25 minutes, but the Nittany Lions found their groove by creating turnovers Northwestern. with their high pressure.

a great performance by Kris Shakes in net.

While it may be concerning to

tonight was a showing of quality

scored for two of the three goals on the night, but in soccer sometimes his sixth goal of it's what doesn't show up on the the season, but stat sheet that has a greater impact.

> For instance, Molloy put Penn State on top because of a shifty move inside the box by midfielder Callum Pritchatt. Pritchett also scored a beautiful bending shot to the back post in the 3-2 win over

With essentially setting up Mol-Although Penn State was out- loy's goal tonight, Pritchatt has shot 18-8, it was clinical in front found himself in a position where of goal and were able to receive his name is being brought up more in the offensive production late into the season.

"It's just having the confidence

fans and those determining as to to try things in the final third," third of the night. whether Penn State is legitimate, Pritchatt said. "Sometimes they the Nittany Lions' performance don't always come off, but coach preaches a lot that in the final third that's the place to take risks. Molloy and Butts did account Sometimes you get the rewards for it and luckily that happened today with the penalty kick.'

Moving forward, Pritchatt stated that it was a huge relief for him to find himself on the scoresheet against Northwestern and then to have a part in Molloy's goal tonight, as well.

'I've been kind of waiting for it and hoping that it had been coming," Pritchatt said. "You just got to try and stay confident in that his speed. it's going to come at some point. Then, when that chance comes, just make sure you take it."

Freshman left back Jalen Watson found himself on the scoresheet as well.

Watson's goal was Penn State's

However, it wouldn't have happened without winning a few headers in the midfield.

Adam Laundree headed the ball towards the midfield, where Pierre Reedy was able to head the ball into Watson's path, in behind the Pitt backline for a tap in.

It's the little things like winning a few headers that can be the difference in earning a point, three points or ending in defeat.

Christian Sload started along Butts tonight and while he may not have been on the scoresheet in the end, he created havoc with

In one instance, Sload used his long strides to his advantage and sped past three Pitt defenders with ease into the box. He wasn't able to convert the chance but it's plays like that which will build confidence.

Penn State commanded a three goal lead with 40 minutes remaining and held a lethal Pitt team to

a shutout for 83 minutes. However, coach Jeff Cook noted that he thought his side handled the lead well until the last 15 minutes or so of the match.

This is when he subbed out some of his players such as Reedy, Molloy and Watson to conserve their minutes. In return, this made the game "a little more erratic than he would've liked."

While it's great for Penn State for Liam Butts to be in form, it's important to produce balanced attacking nights like tonight against the Panthers later in the season, such as the Big Ten tournament and possibly, the NCAA tournament.

> To email reporter: dbp5295@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at



Forward Josh Dabora (26) battles for the ball during Penn State's match against Pitt on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Strong nonconference play preparing PSU for postseason

By Justin Morganstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

There is no denying, Penn State men's soccer is experiencing one of its best years in recent memory.

SOCCER

With a convincing 3-1 win against a solid ACC team in

Pittsburgh and a record which now stands at 7-2-2, the Nittany Lions will look to use their nonconference experience to their advantage as the 2019 campaign rolls along.

Penn State's hard-earned victory over the Panthers comes right after Pitt's biggest win of the season, as the team upset No. 22 Virginia Tech for its first win against the Hokies in program history.

Last year, the Nittany Lions were complacent with any nonconference win, going 3-5 with their only victories coming against Bowling Green, Stony

Brook and Detroit Mercy. But this year, once the team got past its embarrassing home

has essentially dominated nonconference play against some pretty formidable opponents.

In its only draw in nonconference play, Penn State tied a very skilled UCF team in Orlando at the beginning of the season.

This single point gave the Nittany Lions some early season motivation, as the match indicated that they would be ready to go toe to toe with whoever they may face — whether they may be in the Big Ten or outside the confer-"It presents a different chal-

lenge," midfielder Callum Pritchatt said.

"We know that they are all good teams and they've had some good results but [these matches] will send a message to everyone in the country that Penn State is on a good roll right now and we are getting better and better each game."

Simply put, Penn State has proven that it can compete with some of the best teams in the nation and could continue to do so throughout both Big Ten and nonopener loss to No. 5 Stanford, it conference play.

Looking at its future schedule, Penn State will have one more tall task in nonconference play with No. 18 James Madison coming to Happy Valley next week for what is sure to be the Nittany Lions' biggest games to date.

And after, the monster which is the Big Ten tournament.

These nonconference matchups help prepare for the singlegame elimination which will come along once the playoffs begin. Plus, the games not only count for NCAA tournament consideration but also help boost the confidence of the team against a different looking opponent than it may see in a normal conference matchup. "It's about building the belief,"

coach Jeff Cook said.

"When you look at the nonconference schedule all of the teams we are playing are quality opponents so it really prepares you for the Big Ten matches that are ahead as well."

Penn State's trek to the postseason will not be easy. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Young outside backs critical to success

By David Pollak THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's Jalen Watson and Adam Laundree are polar opposites.

MEN'S SOCCER

Whether it be nationalities or personalities, the freshmen

couldn't be any

more different.

Yet, they have been a staple in the starting lineup alongside Brandon Hackenberg and Will Campbell for the Nittany Lions this season.

Before Watson's time at Penn State, he played two years in the MLS's Vancouver Whitecaps youth academy, where Canadian star Alphonso Davies played before his move to Bundesliga powerhouse Bayern Munich.

This season, Watson has started in nine of the Nittany Lions' 10 games this season and plays as an outside back. To go along with that, it's where Davies once did in his career, as Davies plays as a winger or outside back.

Penn State utilizes its outside backs to their fullest potential- which plays a large role in working the ball up the pitch or making overlapping runs down the wing.

Watson, native of Ontario. Canada, is more on the reserved and introverted side but doesn't let that affect him on the field.

"I try to be as loud as I can on the field, but naturally I'm more of a quiet guy," Watson said.

On the other hand, Laundree, the other outside back for the Nittany Lions, leans more toward the vocal side.

Laundree, native of Fairfax, Virginia, is the jokester of the group. It's his way of getting prepared for a match to ease

the tension or to loosen up his With a Penn State team full of new faces coming into the year,

its challenges presented itself in terms of connections. "I think that since we have so many new players on the team

with freshman that it's taken a bit of time to bond," Watson said. "Over the weeks and games that we've went through, it's gotten better and you can see that on the

field with our chemistry." Laundree gave credit to the work in the offseason that led to the strong team chemistry on display in present day.

'We did a lot of work with each other not just on the soccer the field, but off it as well," Laundree said. "We took a few field trips, team bonding — just really trying to get the cohesion of the team. I definitely think that's helped as the season's progressed."

Student-athletes are more than the sport that they play and possess hobbies outside of the sport that they love. For Laundree, he devotes the little free time that he has towards preparing to serve our country.

"I'm doing Army ROTC, so I don't have a ton of free time to do much this year," Laundree said. 'A lot of it is going back and forth between the two.'

Watson is your ordinary college student — often something that people forget about athletes.

"For me, I just like to hang out with friends like a normal kid,' Watson said. "I like to play FIFA and I like to watch soccer on and off the field, that kind of stuff."

As with most groups or friends in general, people come up with nicknames for each other. That's no different with a sports team

For Watson, his teammates keep it simple. "Most people just call me J' just because my name is Jalen," Watson said.

On the other hand, Laundree's is a bit more creative.

"They call me [Sarge] and that's going off the Army ROTC thing," Laundree said.

Despite the differences, Watson and Laundree are an integral part of Penn State's solidified locker room that has carried the team to new heights this season.

> To email reporter: dbp5295@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @David_Pollak097.

There are restaurants and stores in Downtown State College the community may not know about, and unique places like this may come in the near future

By James Langan FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Room and Champs are all landmarks of State College that have State alumni, current students in our district," Jeffries said. and locals alike.

few others — are absolute musts for students and tourists.

not well versed in all the businesses that make up State College. Lee Anne Jeffries, marketfor the nonprofit Downtown State College Improvement District, is a lifelong resident of State joints they typically frequent.

"[The role of the Downtown suggested for students looking District] is to provide a safe and McLanahan's, the Corner clean environment downtown, attract businesses, cultural and recreational activities and to also left their mark on countless Penn market and promote the business When asked about some of the

These locations — along with a lesser known spots of the downtown that students should check out, Jeffries said Juana's, located However, many students are at 129 S Fraser Street, is a great Venezuelan restaurant authentic Venezuelan cuisine.

The food is shipped from ing and communications director Venezuela with all fresh products and ensures students a break from the pizza and hamburgers

local eatery Another

Improvement for something different is Sowers Harvest Café, located at 421 E. Beaver Ave. café The quieter

breakfast and lunch spot, and provides healthy, local and naturally sourced food.

Ultimately, Jeffries said State College provides a welcoming environment for all different types of businesses to thrive. She specifically pointed to the borough's food scene.

"I think the most unique thing we have going for us is our diversity of ethnic cuisine," she said.

Student Lucas Marcellis said that India Pavillion, located at 222 E. Calder Way, is one of his favorite places to eat, but also pointed out that it is usually filled with students starved after a long day of classes.

(senior-computer Marcellis engineering) also said that while Smash Falafel, located at 214 E. Calder Way, is new to the town, he really enjoys eating there.

For those who aren't "foodies," there are places to satisfy their shopping and creative needs. Jeffries mentioned a new

women's boutique called Three Little Birds on 220 E. Calder Way that just opened last week. She said State College is very

excited to have this new boutique, as one of the most common things the borough hears from feedback is there are not many retail shops downtown other than those selling Penn State apparel. Student Jordan Robinson is in

her first semester at Penn State, but said she has lived roughly 45 minutes away her whole life and knows the town well. Robinson



A menu sign for Sowers Harvest Cafe sits outside the cafe on Thursday, April 12, 2018.

an "artsy" type. She said that College in the near future. because of this, one of her favorite spots is 2000 Degrees, which is a pottery shop located at 202 W. College Ave. It allows her to escape the monotony of classes and relax. Jeffries also discussed the lay-

out of downtown and how it has changed over the years. Jeffries said the demand for

student housing is something that has significantly influenced the town a lot in recent years. According to Jeffries, for every

student housing complex that opens downtown there is a certain amount of commercial space is required. This will lead to more

(freshman-biolo- restaurants, retail stores and as football weekends, parents' gy) defined herself as more of other businesses coming to State weekend and Homecoming.

In addition, Jeffries expressed how she sees more retail restaurants in the future of downtown and how one of her organization's goals is to bring businesses to the downtown that will attract the residents of State College, as well as the students.

Jeffries also lent advice to businesses coming downtown. She said some businesses

don't realize how their business plans must factor in the summer months, as most of State College's population students - leave, which means businesses must learn to adapt and take advantage of times such

EZUELAN A sign for Juana's Venezuelan Cuisine stands in Downtown State College on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

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- 6 Across, in verse
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- 8 Sail

- 9 Nocturnal mammal of Africa

10 Taj Mahal city

11 Heineken, e.g.

12 Camelot lady

Kakuro

13 Change for a twenty

- 32 Sweep under the rug 33 Detail 34 Did the butterfly

35 Loaf

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23 Sage

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31 Censor's target

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37 Sub station?

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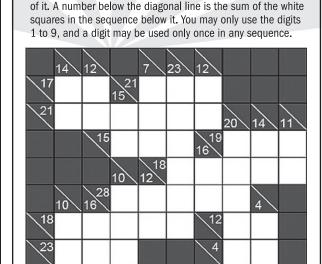
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64 Rather, for one 65 Wind dir. 66 Pop-ups, e.g. 68 Nth degree (Cross Sums)



Bigar's By JACQUELINE BIGAR

coming from. You can be fiery in response with a key person or vice versa. Touch base with a loved one who often walks to a different tune. Tonight: Speak up. **TAURUS** (4/20-5/20) ★★★ Be aware of your limits when dealing with a money matter. Others might not agree with your perspective and let you know. Hold back

ARIES (3/21-4/19) ★★★★★ Speak your mind but understand where others are

until you have a greater perspective than you do at present. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise. GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★★ Allow greater flow and understanding between you and a child or a new friend. Ideas seem to pop up out of nowhere. You feel as if you have a muse on your shoulder right now Tonight: Go with the natural flow of the

CANCER (6/21-7/22) ★★★★ Basics count,

yourself might feel smart, but ultimately it might not work to root out a problem. A domestic issue easily could appear out of the blue. Tonight: Stay centered.

LEO (7/23-8/22) **** You will speak your mind and others will listen carefully. If you ever wanted to make your point to others, now is the time. A meeting or a group of friends seem very open to discussion. Tonight: Get together with friends. VIRGO (8/23-9/22) ★★★★ You shine at work or in the public eye. Others nearly follow your lead but could be hesitant for personal reasons. Open up discussions. You will understand where others are

anything more. Keeping certain details to

coming from. Still, you will naturally take the lead. Tonight: Out on the town. **LIBRA** (9/23-10/22) ★★★★ You could be unusually tired and withdrawn, but try

nowhere. Do not be intimidated by another person's news. Tonight: Be a duo. SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★ Defer to another person, knowing full well what is too much to take on for a project. One-on-

to stay focused. Your sense of humor emerges, and silliness could pop up out of

Answers bit.ly/1CBcyRi

one relating draws strong responses from others. Listen to a variety of ideas whether they work for you or not. Tonight: Go with a suggestion. **SAGITTARIUS** (11/22-12/21) ★★★★ Defer to others when you realize enough is enough. Be more in tune with your longterm desires. A partner or close associate

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★ Pace yourself and get as much done as possible. You could be irritable because of a

Be wise and defer to this person. Tonight:

charge of what you can handle. Tonight: Make it early AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★ Your fun spirit takes you down an interesting route.

While others could be touchy or snappy,

you seem light and easy. Use your cre-

in another milieu. Stay centered and take

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ativity to make a point and help another person relax. Tonight: Let fun in. PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★ Tension builds around your home and family. You could have a case of the grumps or a situation

could be disagreeable. No matter what, tame your words in discussions. You do not want to create any long-term damage. Tonight: Order in.

www.jacquelinebigar.com

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ROLE MODELS

How Penn State players derive motivation from their young fans

By Gianna Galli THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Imagine the feeling of standing in Rec Hall at 13 years old and being star struck.

WOMEN'S **VOLLEYBALL**

For some Penn State fans, attending a volleyball game is something fun to

do with family or friends, but for the younger Nittany Lion fans, its impact goes beyond the ups and downs of the matches.

"Just watching them move, it's almost like you can copy how they do things," 13-year-old Marissa Fix said.

Marissa, along with other children of all ages who admire every aspect of these student-athletes on and off the court, is part of what Penn State's foundation as a program is built around.

"It makes me feel grateful that we get to be role models for young girls or boys who look up to us as more than just Penn State fans," senior libero Kendall White said.

These children aren't just another part of the fan section in after a match in Rec Hall.

Rec Hall. To this team, they truly define what Penn State plays for.

'There is this little boy named Tyler and last year I met him and his family, and they were just the biggest fans," sophomore outside hitter Jonni Parker said. "I didn't know them before that, and after I met them they followed me on social media. There were even videos of him standing in front of the TV watching the games.'

Because of moments like this, a few Nittany Lions, like Kristin Krause, White and Parker, will never understand the feeling of what it's like to fake a smile after

Win or lose, it's a very refreshing feeling to have our fans always love and support us through anything, and admiring what we do out here," Krause said.

After each game, the wooden court at Rec Hall transforms into a sea of children holding posters, wearing jerseys and taking pictures with each of the players.

However, Penn State makes sure that the relationship between the team and its fans goes beyond the pizza and ice cream

mail them back," White said. "As a program, we try our best to engage with them and really let them know how much we care for them because they care for us." Throughout the season, differ-

ent high school volleyball teams will attend each home match in support of the Nittany Lions, and some of the teams will even make an appearance at a Penn State practice to learn from the players.

With such a special connection, Penn State makes sure to show that its fans dedication never goes unrecognized.

Every October, Penn State athletics has a 'trick or treat' event at the All Sports Museum and the athletes will go sit around at their spot in the museum, pass out candy and play games with kids," Krause said. "That's kind of a chance for us to admire all of the little kids and celebrate them and our need for us to give back."

Krause and Parker are elementary education majors, and both players work with students every Tuesday and Thursday night.

'Kristin babysits her coaches' kids who are little baby nuggets," White said. "Kids cling to her like candy, she does everything she can with them and it's very

Krause plans to touch the lives of many more children in volleyball, and outside of the sport as well. In one aspect, she has already done this by writing backand-forth to a pen pal in need of some advice.

'She was battling some emotional issues and I think by talking to me, it kept her mind off of things and it was very beneficial for her," Krause said. "This was very important and emotional to me because then I got to meet her against Rutgers for the first time and it was awesome just to hear from her dad about how much of an impact I had on her life."

As a team, Penn State empha-



Penn State fans Moriah Hurd, Marissa Fix, Kendall Guisewhite and Gracie Riddle pose for a photo after Penn State's win on Oct. 11.

jerseys and autographs. Instead, of that by dedicating their ability the Nittany Lions set aside time to make their fans proud on the during THON weekend to go to the tennis courts and play with THON kids.

This is a time for us to recognize people who are going through something so significant in their lives," Krause said. "We're just trying to make an impact them in a positive way and create a happy smile on their face. Depending on the sport and

the players, it's not as common or simple for a college sports program to be as involved with its fans as Penn State is.

But for this women's volleyball team, children consider the players to be heroes and role models.

"When I attended a camp for Penn State, we all split up into groups by position and our coaches for it are the Penn State players, like Kendall White and Jenna Hampton," 13-year-old Gracie Riddle said. "I am able to learn from them and look up to them."

At the collegiate level, a fan base as strong as Penn State's is hard to come across and the Nitsizes giving back beyond signing tany Lions realize the significance

court. "I think that's what makes collegiate volleyball special because there aren't really professional leagues in America when it comes to volleyball," White said. "So I think that cheering for us is a sense of pride among our fans, and college sports are awesome because of that loyalty and support.'

Even in her fourth season, White continues to be amazed by the love and admiration that this program receives from its youngest fans.

Instead of looking up to movie stars or professional athletes, the Nittany Lions are already looked at as idols and role models by those that will be Penn State's biggest fans for years to come.

'It is really an amazing thing that you are admired by all of these kids who have the rest of their lives ahead of them," White said, "and it's you that they chose to adore."

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PENN STATE

Gabby Blossom (13) and Gracie Riddle pose for a photo after Penn

State's win over Maryland on Oct. 11.

PSU's youth continues to lead the way

By Justin Morganstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State is currently on one of its best runs in recent memory. With a 6-2-2 record and sitting

MEN'S SOCCER place

Big the Ten, the

at second

have thing special brewing over at Jeffrey Field. So what's the difference from

last year — a 2018 season which resulted in six total wins and an 0-6-2 record on the road?

The simple answer is the young reinforcements of freshmen Liam Butts and Andrew Privett.

The pair are just part of the equation, but are certainly big ones as they've had a major impact on the success of this Penn State team, filling the void left by former attackers Jeremy Rafanello and Ethan Beckford, who forewent their eligibility for the professional ranks this past

A native of Lawrenceville, Georgia, Butts has filled the stat sheet all season as he leads the Nittany Lions in both goals (five) and points (10).

offseason.

Not only has Butts been finding the net, but he's done so at the right times, changing the game for Penn State time and time again. Four of Butts' five goals have either tied the game or given the Nittany Lions the lead in 2019, so coming up big in a crucial spot hasn't been a problem for the 18 year-old.

"It comes down to mentality," coach Jeff Cook said. "The intensity and concentration is something that you just have to play with.'

Butts has also been a great change of pace at the striker position paired with senior forward Christian Sload, who has also seen some early success this season.

Sload and some of the other veterans, such as Pierre Reedy,



Forward Liam Butts (7) shows emotion during Penn State's match against Pitt on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at Jeffrey Field. Butts scored one goal in the Nittany Lions' 3-1 victory over the Panthers.

have pushed Butts and have the stat sheet like Liam Butts has provided an example of how to compete in between the lines at the college ranks. "I need to keep up," Butts said. "I am a freshman but that means nothing, and I am just trying to keep up with them.'

Butts is a loud and outspoken personality with plenty of dance moves in the locker room.

Privett, meanwhile, is much more reserved off the field.

But once the first whistle blows and Penn State begins their fight each match, the much more shy and reserved Privett becomes one of the more outspoken members of the team.

Being one of the communicative leaders of the midfield and putting up the numbers to back it up is an impressive feat for another young star who has yet to celebrate his 20th birthday.

early on, his play has still been on point through the first 10 games of the season, chipping in important goals and assists in some key moments as well.

Just like Butts, the Fallston, Maryland, native deflects some of the success to the veteran core of the Nittany Lions and credits them with a lot of his early production.

He feels that the upperclassmen not only provided help with training and on the field activities, but just with getting used to campus and being welcomed into the family which is Penn State men's soccer.

"We came in during the summer and right from the start all of the juniors and seniors are taking us under their wing" Privett said. 'They wanted to hang out and get Although Privett has not lit up to know us as people.

This has been a fundamental piece of the program since Jeff Cook's arrival, making sure that the Nittany Lions are the best collective unit they can be.

With that value, the entire team believes that their teammates can carry them and each person can help assist in an effort to win night in and night out.

We keep stressing that one of Penn State's values is 'One Team'," Cook said. "Regardless of how long you've been here or how many games you've played, when the whistle blows it's just one team against the other."

The young core which includes other names such as Jalen Watson, Seth Kuhn and Kris Shakes will eventually go on to lead the program within the next few years and it is fair to say the stock on Penn State men's soccer is only going up.

As the culture of this team continues to get stronger so will the results that it sees, first tasting the glory of victory with the early season winning it has experienced so far.

With Cook at the helm of this program and the youthful Nittany Lions continuing to answer all the doubts, expect an entertaining second half of the season with plenty of gritty play combined with clinical skill from both the youthful and veteran players on Penn State.

"Our resilience and determination are fantastic," Cook says, "You see our depth and our quality and it comes down to character and we keep striving as a group which shows you the spirit about this team."

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