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# DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## Housing Guide Spring 2020






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A student walks by East Halls on Oct. 14. An apartment may be an upgrade or downgrade from a residence hall like the one pictured.

# Living in an apartment: upgrade or downgrade?

Depending on where a student previously lived, an apartment may be a good or bad situation

By James Langan  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A short five-minute walk along Bigler Road separates the slums referred to as Pollock Halls and the apparent utopia that is the renovated East Halls.

These are the two residence areas dominated by freshmen at University Park. Many students in Pollock and traditional East buildings complain about the inferior rooms and amenities offered to them.

For freshman like me, who endure the year in one of these lesser residence halls, there is one thing we have over the privileged East-renovated residents — for those of us moving off campus, many of us in will upgrade living conditions, while many students in East will have to come down from their shiny, albeit inconveniently located, towers.

This concept will not apply to everyone, of course.

Some of our luckier peers will move from East renovated to a place like RISE or The Metropolitan.

The same is true on the opposite end of the spectrum. Some of the residents living in unrenovated places will maintain a similar living condition off-campus or even spend their sophomore year in Pollock.

In my case, I cannot wait to say my final goodbyes to the outdated, small dorm room I currently call “home.”

Next year, I, along with one of my roommates, will be upgrading to an apartment, while my other three roommates will have to let go of some of the privileges they currently hold.

My fellow Pollock resident and I will be welcomed by air-conditioners and will be ecstatic to sleep in beds that were not purchased before we were born. Unfortunately, my other roommates will not be as happy, as they are going to lose space and will have to adjust to what will be a lower quality room.

The positives and negatives of upgrading or downgrading will be different for a lot of students, many of which might not care either way.

Where you live doesn’t define you and, in the end, it probably won’t matter all that much. Many students don’t spend much time in their dorms or apartments — it’s just a place to sleep and eat.

For people like me, though, those who have a lesser room and care take comfort in knowing there is light at the end of the tunnel, whether it be an apartment or one of the other residence complexes at University Park.

My advice to all of you is to be patient. Don’t let a bad room take away from your freshman experience. It is only two semesters — just eight short months out of your whole life. Don’t dwell on it. At graduation, housing will be an afterthought. But trust me — I understand the frustration.

Elon Musk once said, “Patience is a virtue, and I’m learning patience. It’s a tough lesson.”

Oh, and to all of you who live in East-renovated — just be happy you didn’t have to deal with the communal bathrooms.

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# The hunt for housing

Students discuss their top priorities when searching for an apartment

By Morgan Miller  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

During the apartment hunting season in State College, students are often forced to think about their must-have elements when living off campus.

Since Downtown State College is a location primarily occupied by college students, there are no shortage of apartments and houses within the campus vicinity. With so many options, the search for the perfect living situation can begin to appear endless.

Freshmen students like Macy Hale are seeking a place with more living space after spending a year in the dorms.

“I’d want the bedroom to be separate from the living room area; it can’t just be one room,” Hale (freshman- engineering) said.

The idea of having a place outside of the bedroom, such as somewhere to relax or work on homework, is certainly a big part of what students are looking for during their apartment search. Housing options with multiple rooms seem to be a common request when students discuss their ideal living situation.

“I want a living room area. I don’t want it to be my bed and that’s it,” Rohit Haridas (freshman-computer science) said. “I need a place that I can chill.”

Finding the work-life balance while living at school can be difficult for some, but students also search for some elements other than extra space for their prospective apartments.

Katelyn Ellery said one of her concerns has to do with house cleaning after she makes her move off campus next year.

“I’d definitely need hardwood floors because vacuuming is too much work,” Ellery (freshman-psychology) said. “If I spill something, I want to be able to easily clean it up.”

Though State College offers a wide range of housing options, students like Gillian Russell still aren’t looking too far off campus, even once they move out of the dorms. The location factor is another piece of criterion for students who are planning to make a move out of their current living situation.

“I feel like location is probably the most important thing for me,” Russell (sophomore-anthropology) said. “I don’t want to be too far off campus so I have to take the bus. I want to walk to most of my classes.”

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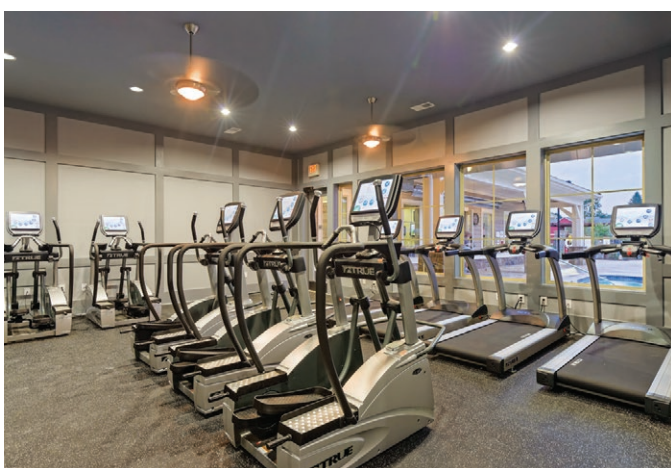






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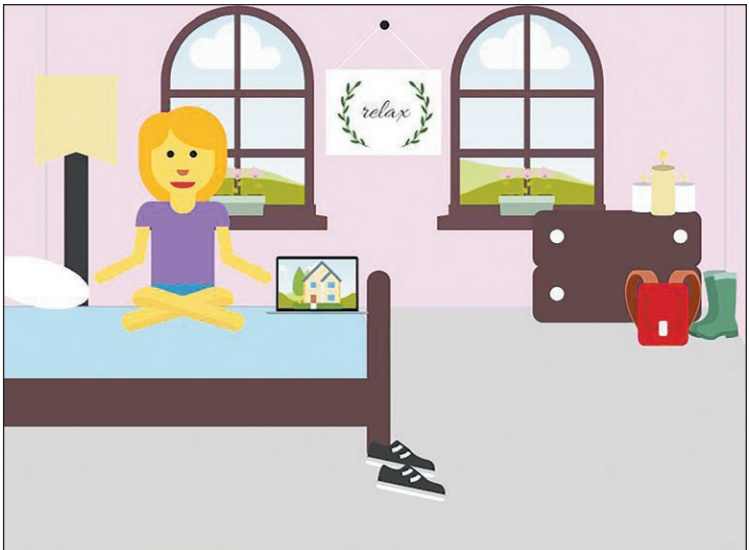
MY VIEW | CAITLYN FROLO

# How my living situation affected me

I was excited to come to college, ready to “spread my wings and fly,” as some may say. Hopeful and jubilant, I moved into Penn State University as a freshman three years ago. People always say the college experience makes up the best years of your life, during which you are allowed to make mistakes, try new things and meet your forever friends. I honestly didn’t feel that way when I first moved into Hartranft Hall in Pollock Halls. It was smaller than I was used to and very stuffy, the dust making me sneeze more than normal. I was nervous about living with a complete stranger, to the point where I hadn’t eaten much the first week of classes. This led to headaches, and as a result, stress. Outside of my dorm, I truly did feel alive. I joined so many organizations and got to chance to be a part of my first THON committee, something I had looked forward to all summer. I made friends in my classes and went to bonding events. However, inside of my dorm I felt extremely uncomfortable. My roommate did not really like to talk and we clashed on

differing viewpoints and aspects of living together. I had a hard time falling asleep at night. When I was sick and unable to leave bed, she was upset that I was ill, opening the window and cleaning late into the night. It was hard to be in the room that was supposed to be my home for eight months, and the girls on my floor were quiet and kept to themselves. This was much different from my friends’ experiences and it often led me to question if I was doing the whole roommate thing right. I spent as much time away from home as possible, only there to sleep, shower, do homework or talk to my mom. I even developed an anxious response to the door unlocking. It was hard to be in a room where I wasn’t wanted. When she decided to move out the next semester, I was the last to know, meaning I had no idea who I would be with the next semester. It was tough, to the point that when I was offered a single my sophomore year, I took it without hesitation. This was something that affected my mental health even more.

Living alone both my spring semester of freshman year and all of sophomore year let me have too much time to my thoughts, which turned negative as more work and stress piled on. I felt alone, finding myself calling people constantly with no one to talk to. I was busy, taking 15-18 credits depending on the semester, and I always dreaded going home. I found myself having panic attacks as the semesters went on, my heart pounding and tears flowing over things that couldn’t be changed. After spring semester, I went to see my physician. She determined that I had generalized anxiety and depression, which developed through my time living in the dorms and dealing with outside stressors such as family problems and financial concerns. According to a study conducted by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 75 percent of all mental health conditions surface by age 24. I was 19. I can say now that had I not lived where I did freshman year, I am not sure I would have taken the necessary steps to get help.



Collegian creative

I felt alone and I needed to do better, something I am still working on today. My living situation this year had some rough patches, but through therapy and a roommate swap, I feel comfortable being home again, with the ability to talk to my roommates about anything and everything. According to the DSM-5, 20 percent of individuals receiving treatment for mental health

have been diagnosed with an adjustment disorder. Adjustment disorders may go hand in hand with depression and anxiety based on the situational effects. It takes time to find somewhere that feels like home when your real home is hundreds of miles away. But, when you do, peace of mind ensues.

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# Where would students live if there were no limitations?

**Lindsey Toomer**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Imagine a world where money, housing contracts, leases and roommates are no object — where students have more freedom where they live. There are dozens of housing options for students both on and off campus, but due to the high prices and competition, not everyone gets their first choice. While the desire to live in luxury high rise apartments, including the RISE, the Metropolitan and the Edge, are popular in many students’ minds, not everyone would choose to live there if they could. Lauren Briggs said location doesn’t matter to her, but she would want to live in a house to learn about the responsibilities it comes with.

“I think it would be a good way to get myself prepared for the future,” Briggs (senior-biology) said. Hana Elquesny said she would live downtown because of the close proximity to campus and the convenience of not having to wake up too early for class. Elquesny (junior-economics) said if she had to choose a specific building, it would be the RISE because it is new. Maya Inman also said she would live in the RISE because of the close proximity to campus and high-end amenities. She also mentioned the lawn and hot tub the apartment building is built around as reasons why she would want to live there. Inman (senior-biobehavioral health) also noted the prestige associated with living at the RISE. “It’s also [expensive], so we

make fun of it for people who [live there],” she said. Nick Sutton (junior-immunology) also said he would live at the RISE because of the convenient location and nice apartments. Elyse Sanford (senior-supply chain) said any of the new luxury apartments would be nice, but the Edge would be the best option because of its central location. Stephanie Katofsky (senior-management) agreed, noting the premiere experience of living in the luxury apartments. Living off campus isn’t the only option students prefer, though. Akshay Khanna lives in the renovated East Halls — and he wouldn’t change a thing. “The experience I’ve had in East renovated is unlike any other,” he said. “We have a real community feel in East.” Khanna (freshman-pre-medi-



Collegian file photo

The Edge, one of downtown State College’s newest apartment buildings, is located on East Beaver Avenue. cine) said he likes the opportunity to meet different people on his floor, and the renovated buildings are much better than those that

aren’t yet updated. To email reporter: [ixt344@psu.edu](mailto:ixt344@psu.edu). Follow her on Twitter at: [@lindseytoom](https://twitter.com/lindseytoom).

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Photo courtesy of Alyte Katilius/The State News

# SWATTING SPARTY

*Led by another star performance from Lamar Stevens, Penn State tops Michigan State on the road for the first time in over a decade*

By Caleb Wilfinger  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State was on the verge of picking up one of the biggest wins in the Pat Chambers era, but the game was far from over.

With the Nittany Lions leading 69-68 with 16 seconds remaining, Lamar Stevens stepped up to the free throw line and calmly drained two free throws in front of a raucous crowd at the Breslin Center.

Seconds later, Cassius Winston missed a potential game-tying free throw, and Stevens ripped down the rebound in between two Michigan State players.

He was sent to the charity stripe with nine seconds remaining with a chance to extend Penn State's lead to three once again.

And much like on the previous trip, Stevens knocked down both free throws while under immense pressure to keep the Spartans at an arm's length.

They were the four biggest free throws of Penn State's season, and four of the biggest free

throws of Stevens' career to date. They were also ultimately the difference in the Nittany Lions' 75-70 victory over the Spartans on Tuesday.

At times throughout his career, Stevens has struggled at the free throw line.

But as he told the Big Ten Network's Olivia Dekker after the game, the senior was fully confident in his ability to deliver in the biggest moment.

"I really work on these types of situations every day," Stevens said.

"We always work on scenarios like that in the gym each day, so I just thought back to that and told myself that I do it all the time and [the ball] will go in. So, I just went up and shot it."

Time and again, Stevens was put in a position where he had to come up big for his team. And each time, the senior delivered.

The veteran forward opened the scoring with an elbow jumper, and hit a similar shot five minutes later to cut the Spartans lead to 13-9 and allow the Nittany Lions

to survive the early barrage on the road.

He even knocked down a 3-pointer in the midst of a 12-0 Penn State run that gave the Nittany Lions their biggest lead of the first half.

And after Pat Chambers picked up a technical foul at the end of the first half, Stevens started off the final 20 minutes with two quick buckets, quieting the crowd and quelling any nerves that may have lingered from the way the previous half had ended.

"A couple of years ago, we were up at the half in this building and [Michigan State] put it to us in the second half," Chambers said. "That's something that we talked about at halftime, and I thought we did a good job of fighting back and taking back the momentum after they made a couple of runs."

As the half wore on, Stevens continued to produce when his team needed him the most.

After being kept off the board for over 12 minutes, the senior drained a midrange jumper to tie the game at 63 with just over

six minutes to play. Nearly three minutes later, he responded to a Winston 3-pointer by getting the ball in the paint and coaxing in a 10-footer to give Penn State a 67-66 lead with 3:42 remaining.

Finally, there were the five free throws he hit in the game's final 90 seconds, all while blocking out one of the loudest arenas in college basketball.

He would finish with 24 points on 9-of-20 shooting in 39 minutes, and had seven of the Nittany Lions' last 10 points to clinch a potentially season-defining win.

"Playing in this building is never easy," Stevens said. "So the fact that we were able to come in here, play fearlessly and leave with a win, that's huge for us and our confidence as a team. It shows what we're capable of."

Without Stevens' pivotal shot-making and clutch free throw shooting down the stretch, the game could've gone in a myriad of different directions.

Even when they were down by double figures, the Spartans were never truly out of the

game and Tom Izzo's group was consistently to counterpunch when it needed to.

However, it always seemed like Penn State had an answer for every potentially backbreaking Michigan State run, and none of that would be possible if it wasn't for the toughness and leadership ability that Stevens showed in being able to help will his team to victory on the road.

On Tuesday, Stevens was the complete package and looked every bit like the player who will be in contention for a second straight All-Conference First Team selection and a nominee for Big Ten Player of the Year.

"When I decided to come back, I knew that I was coming back to a great group of guys," Stevens said.

"These are guys that just want to work hard. I knew that the sky was the limit when you've got guys like that, and I'm glad it's panning out like this."

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Al Goldis/Associated Press

Penn State's Myreon Jones dribbles during the game against Michigan State on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

## Jones continues to shine

By Justin Morganstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For the last two seasons, Lamar Stevens has undoubtedly been Penn State's biggest star, and will continue to be the number one option for Pat Chambers as his team continues to power through the Big Ten.

But the emergence of another budding star in sophomore guard Myreon Jones is one that has rapidly taken place right before the eyes of his coaches and teammates.

And while Stevens faces the beginning of the end of his storied career as a Nittany Lion, Jones will continue to blossom into the next go-to-guy.

With higher expectations placed on Penn State going into the season, it would need some

more offensive firepower to push through what turned out to be an extremely difficult conference schedule with solid opponents every night.

But to succeed in a conference with as much talent and grit as the Big Ten, a new star would have to emerge, one that can spread the offense out and become a secondary scorer.

The Nittany Lions thought they had just that in Rasir Bolton last year, as he averaged just under 12 points for the team in his freshman season.

But the 6-foot-3 guard had other plans than to continue his career in Happy Valley, as he decided to transfer to Iowa State in the offseason.

This opened the door for Jones to slide into the starting backcourt role with Jamari Wheeler

and become the smooth scoring combo guard that he has shown.

Known as "buckets" to his teammates and coaches, Jones is averaging just under 14 points per game and he has come up large in key games and has been an essential part of many Penn State wins this season.

The Birmingham, Alabama native has not only become a top scoring threat for Penn State, but is also learning how to become a point guard who can get his entire team involved.

"I always know my contributions are important," Jones said. "I have to get my teammates involved and get them going too as a point guard so that's what I have to do."

See JONES, Page 4.

MY VIEW | TYLER KING

## Win over MSU is Chambers' best

I've had the same tweet pinned to the top of my account for over a year now.

On Jan. 20 of last year, I wrote a column explaining why Penn State would be wrong to fire Pat Chambers. The Nittany

Lions were 0-8 in Big Ten play at that time and would go on to lose two more games before finally picking up their first conference victory.

Now 380 days later, Penn State just won its biggest game of Chambers' tenure.

The Nittany Lions went into the Breslin Center and beat Michigan State on the road for the second time ever. Penn State is 7-4 in the Big Ten and 17-5 overall and looks like a team poised to make a deep run in the NCAA Tournament.

"We've definitely come a long way in one year," Lamar Stevens told reporters post-game.

This win on Tuesday night is special for a lot of reasons.

Penn State has won five Big Ten games in a row for the first time in program history. It's also the first time in program history that the Nittany Lions have won road games against both Michigan and Michigan State in the same season.

But the biggest reason this win is so special?

Penn State deserved to win. This was no fluke. Michigan State was the pre-

season No.1 team in the country and the Nittany Lions just played a better 40 minutes of basketball on Tuesday night.

Sure, Spartans star point guard Cassius Winsoton put up 25 points and nine assists. But he didn't get much help.

Penn State's star on the other hand, got plenty of help.

While Stevens had a performance worthy of his star stature — 24 points, seven rebounds and three assists — his teammates came up big in key moments. And the most ironic part of all of this is that the one person outside of Happy Valley that constantly went to bat for Chambers and told people things would turn around was Tom Izzo.

After Penn State beat Michigan State at the Palestra a little over three years ago, Izzo told reporters that Chambers' program was on an upward trajectory. But I don't even think he could've managed his team getting outplayed by the Nittany Lions in their own building just a few years later.

There have been big wins under Chambers. There have been more ranked wins under Chambers than any other coach in program history.

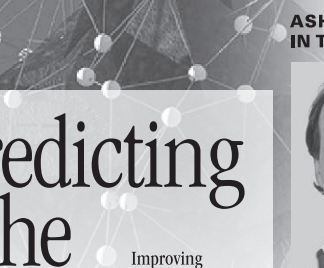
But this win takes the cake.

The Nittany Lions probably weren't on the radar of casual college basketball fans before Tuesday, but they should be now.

Tyler King is a senior majoring in print/digital journalism and Spanish is The Daily Collegian's managing editor. His email is [tbk5155@psu.edu](mailto:tbk5155@psu.edu).



*As the 46-hour dance marathon quickly approaches, a doctor and former dancers share advice*



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## The road to characterizing potentially habitable planets

**ERIC B. FORD**  
Professor, Dept. of Astronomy and Astrophysics,  
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Penn State

NASA's Kepler mission discovered thousands of exoplanets, including hundreds of Earth-size planets. However, the planets discovered around sun-like stars by Kepler are typically thousands of light years away, making them difficult to study in detail. Penn State researchers have developed sophisticated modeling tools to deduce the distribution of planets and planetary systems in our galaxy and have developed a new generation of instruments to test these models by searching nearby stars for Earth-mass planets. Learn how Penn State research is informing plans for a new generation of observatories and space missions to characterize potentially Earth-like planets.



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# Pride Parade addresses non-student demographic

## OUR VIEW

### Borough Council’s approval of Pride Parade is a valuable move for the broader community

For the first time ever, the borough of State College will host its own Pride Parade and festival.

Penn State celebrates Campus Pride Month each April, hosting a variety of events and activities, but these initiatives are university-centered.

The newly-approved State College Pride Parade and festival, scheduled for June 13, provides a landmark opportunity for State College residents to celebrate LGBTQ pride

and gather within the community.

On its own, downtown State College has a handful of designated LGBTQ-centric spaces — including popular spots like Chumleys and Websters — but the area isn’t teeming with them.

Further, places like

Websters often host LGBTQ-friendly events, but as a bookstore, that isn’t the business’ sole purpose. The implementation of a parade and festival within the greater State College community has the potential to offer that designated space to many locals, with the

purpose of just gathering to celebrate the LGBTQ+ life and community.

It could be interesting to see, numbers-wise, how many turn out for the borough’s pride events.

It’s safe to say that an area in the heart of Central Pennsylvania probably won’t bring in as many people as pride festivities in major cities do, such as New York, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

However, that doesn’t mean State College’s upcoming pride activities should be considered any less valid, legitimate or worthy of being attended.

Centre LGBTQA Support Network Co-Chair Tamar London said the parade and festival will include activities for participants of all ages, as well as family-oriented activities, according to StateCollege.com.

Many popular pride

celebrations across the country include heavy commercialization from big businesses, which is not always negative, but has become a point of contention for many over the years.

However, State College’s efforts this June could provide an opportunity to celebrate pride without the involvement of larger commercialization, given the town’s smaller scale in comparison to major cities in the U.S.

Regardless of community beliefs on how inclusive or diverse State College may be, formal pride celebrations for locals were lacking for many within the State College community for years.

State College’s Pride Parade and festival is a positive step forward for the town.

Along with other recently approved community events, like Summers on Allen, initiatives like the borough’s pride celebrations show State College’s efforts to find deeper community.



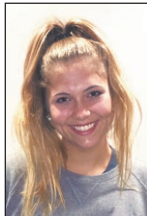
Collegian File Photo

The culminating event of Penn State Pride Week ended with a parade from the Life Science Building to the Steps of the Library on Friday, March 28th, 2014.

## MY VIEW | Kaleigh Quinnan

# K-12 health classes give too much, too little at same time

I went to public school outside of Philadelphia, just like many of the students that currently attend Penn State.



Quinnan

This, I can only assume, involved a lot of shared truths – figuring out locker combinations, waiting for warm cookies in the lunch line and the pacer test in gym class.

Another educational commonplace was, of course, health class.

I have a vivid memory of being in Mrs. Lash’s fourth grade gym/health class, sitting on the dirty floor of the gym and getting my first exposure to cigarettes.

A blackened image of a lung, accompanied by a poor man who had a hole in his throat was presented to the class of eight and nine year olds.

Without much of an explanation other than “smoking kills,” we were then prompted to go around the room and share personal anecdotes about smoking and swear to beg our parents/family members to quit cigarettes.

Reflecting back on this moment, I feel as though there

is something wrong about telling fourth graders they needed to take it upon themselves to convince the adults in their lives to never touch tobacco again, lest they would end up with a gaping hole in the middle of their neck.

This anti-cigarette education soon expanded into education about other vices in a similarly dramatic form.

In seventh grade, at age 12, a box TV was rolled into my health classroom to display a feature film titled “The Miracle Of Life” which involved a close up live action feature film of a woman giving natural birth to twins.

Yes, my seventh-grade class saw it all.

One girl literally passed out.

This sex-education was accompanied by an intensive packet with all of the STDs and STIs imaginable.

The class, unsurprisingly, made no effort to really explain how sex actually worked, and never even touched on gay sex or pregnancy prevention measures.

The anti-drug tactics were then mostly enforced in high school; my personal favorite being the assembly during which a real-life person got on stage and told us that drinking a sin-

“It is just that mandating trauma and hoping that the fear of doing such activities isn’t very effective; it downplays the dangers and makes the act itself seem edgier than need be.”

Kaleigh Quinnan

gle beer in his mother’s basement at age 12 had led him to become a heroin addict.

While this may be true, assemblies and pamphlets like this that implied sipping wine was a one-way ticket to huffing glue made the entire situation seem a little bit ludicrous and did not really explain the way these things worked in the real world.

I am not saying that any vices are in any way good for you, nor that we should be teaching the youth of America that smoking is OK or to rush into sex.

It is just that mandating trauma and hoping that the fear of doing such activities

isn’t very effective.

It downplays the dangers and makes the act itself seem edgier than need be.

An education about “the bad things that adults do” should be more honest – yes, smoking cigarettes is bad for you and should not be done, but smoking one is not going to immediately turn your lungs black.

Yes, sex is something that should be done safely, but it is not a sentence to give a natural birth to twins right away.

Yes, substance abuse needs to be taken seriously, but drinking a beer is not going to result in huffing glue.

People are fundamentally flawed, and adults make stupid choices all of the time.

It is inevitable. I think that it would be better, however, to make informed decisions (even if they are not great ones) instead of taking shots in the dark in the direction of wrongdoing.

Kaleigh Quiannan is a junior majoring in visual arts and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at [kfq5020@psu.edu](mailto:kfq5020@psu.edu) or follow her on Twitter at @kaleighquinnan.

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# Kirk Ciarrocca ready to lead

By Benjamin Ferree  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Kirk Ciarrocca remembers walking to the gates of Beaver Stadium as a young boy, in awe at the size of it, ready to watch Penn State and hear the roar of the Nittany Lions over the sound system.

But his awe quickly turned into a panic.

Ciarrocca lost his ticket and immediately turned to his coach, who helped him sneak by the security into Beaver Stadium.

Now, after a 30-year coaching career, Ciarrocca can call Beaver Stadium home as the newest offensive coordinator at Penn State, a dream come true for the Lewisberry native.

“I grew up outside of Harrisburg and grew up as a Penn State fan and so a chance to come back and work at a school that I dreamed about possibly playing at someday which I was not good enough to do,” Ciarrocca said. “It really is kind of a dream come true.”

But the decision to come to State College from Minnesota and leave PJ Fleck, who Ciarrocca coached alongside since 2013, wasn’t an easy one and took a special set of circumstances.

“The first thing I was looking for was a head coach that I respected and I thought that could help me grow as a coach and that he had a great culture, a culture that I could believe in and so Coach Franklin met that criteria,” Ciarrocca said. “Then the other thing I was looking for was I wanted to coach at a school where I felt like we had a legitimate chance to win a national championship. When I looked at Penn State, they had a top-10 team which has done a great job of getting that team to that cusp where they are going to be considered and talked about in August every year about them being in the College Football Playoff.”

Ciarrocca continued to say that Penn State also gave him an opportunity to take Penn State to a place they haven’t been in a long time and be a part of a special time in Happy Valley.

But this won’t come without a lot of hard work, something that Ciarrocca feels is invaluable to



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

**Penn State’s new offensive coordinator Kirk Ciarrocca** speaks with the press at Beaver Stadium on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

having a successful offense.

“The core philosophies of what I believe in that makes you a successful offense have been with me a long time,” Ciarrocca said. “The actual plays and that have evolved with time and with the different players that I’ve had the pleasure of working with.”

“But I’ve been blessed that I’ve been around a lot of really good offenses and I’ve been around a lot of really good players that are willing to work really hard and pay the price on a daily basis.”

And according to Ciarrocca, his scheme is going to be a combination of what he did at Minnesota combined with some core values of the old Penn State system that are all tied together with one common denominator.

“Ultimately, it’s about what your players do best,” Ciarrocca said. “Accentuate their strengths, limit their weaknesses and that is something that I’ve always been able to do no matter where I’ve coached at and I’m excited about doing that here and I love the talent I’m working with here.”

And the ability to merge together these two systems is something that Franklin is very excited about as he is very happy

with the progression of the Nittany Lions offense over the past few years.

“I don’t feel like we need to go hire someone, blow it up and start all over,” Franklin said. “Do we have someone that’s experienced enough and has enough humility that will come in and say, okay, I’m secure enough and comfortable enough that this is how I do things, and there’s core beliefs that I’m not willing to budge on, but here’s other things where I’m smart enough and I’ve been in the business long enough, the areas where I can learn it and take some of the learning off the players will do that.”

And Ciarrocca is that guy. Penn State is still going to be a no huddle offense that runs from the shotgun and does not use fullbacks. In fact, Minnesota’s offense under Ciarrocca the past couple years has been very similar to Penn State’s, something that Ciarrocca noticed.

“I think it is a system that we have developed that fits and it has answers and we know what the answers are and we know how to move the pieces as the defense moves their pieces and to put ourselves in the best possible

situation for our guys to execute,” Ciarrocca said.

Ciarrocca said that some of his biggest beliefs in an offense are taking care of the ball, execution and an unmatched effort.

While he also values turnover margin and explosive plays.

But in order for any of this to be successful, Penn State will need to execute.

“You might have a great receiver out here and you diagram this great play to get him one-on-one but if the other 10 guys don’t do their job it’s not going to happen, you are never going to know it,” Ciarrocca said. “You are all going to sit there and say ‘what a terrible play call, why didn’t that work, boy he is a dummy’ but when all 11 guys are executing together that is when the explosive plays start to happen and then you have to put your guys in positive situations.”

Ciarrocca later compared an offense to an orchestra saying how beautiful it sounds when all the pieces are playing together, but how ugly it can sound when one piece isn’t on board.

And while Ciarrocca is still getting adjusted to the Penn State personal and will admittedly

learn more about the team when spring practice starts, one player has already stood out — Sean Clifford.

“I love Sean. I think when I got down to the Cotton Bowl, I’m pretty sure that he was the first guy that I had a conversation with,” Ciarrocca said. “As soon as I got out of the car, they were coming out and he saw me and came over and introduced himself and we began to talk and I felt a real connection right away with him.”

“Very intelligent, very hard worker, absolutely wants to be great. He wants to be great and he is willing to pay the price in order to accomplish that. So I’m really excited to work with him and help him realize his potential.”

And at the end of the day, that is what Ciarrocca wants in his quarterback. To him it doesn’t matter how fast he is or how his arm is — it is all about leadership and work ethic.

“When you sit down and look at it, they are all accurate passers, some have had stronger arms than others,” Ciarrocca said on his favorite type of quarterback. “They’ve all been confident, decisive, decision makers. Some of them were 4.0s and some were 2.5s but they’ve all been confident, decisive, decision makers and they’ve all been leaders.”

And while Ciarrocca now has a new challenge ahead of him, running the offense for a top-10 program, a challenge that is much different situation than his first season in Western Michigan or Minnesota, where both programs were in the midst of a rebuild.

But with the new challenge, comes a new level of excitement for Ciarrocca as he feels like he is at home in State College.

“On the plane ride down to the Cotton Bowl, you have to turn your phone off on the plane and I guess that the news broke and when I got off the plane and turned my phone on, I’ve never seen anything like it,” Ciarrocca said. “It was almost like a slot machine with a lot of text messages and that’s special that people I’m close with and family and friends were excited about me coming to Penn State.”

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# Trautwein’s journey to PSU comes full circle

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Phil Trautwein doesn’t have that Penn State connection that many coaches do.

He grew up in New Jersey, played college football at Florida, and previously coached at Davidson and Boston College.

But Trautwein has dreamed of ending up in Happy Valley — a dream that started almost 20 years ago. The new offensive line coach wanted to play for the Nittany Lions, but there was one problem. The Nittany Lions didn’t want him.

“Believe it or not, I love Penn State. Kid from New Jersey. I actually wanted an offer from Penn State,” Trautwein said. “If I would’ve gotten one, I would’ve come here.”

He didn’t get that offer, and ended up at Florida. His unique experience is one that he feels can relate to the current players, increasing the bond of the room.

“I think he’s got a story that is attractive to our current players and also to recruits,” James Franklin said.

“[He] was not a highly recruited guy, goes to Florida, wins two National Championships, starts for multiple years at left tackle, doesn’t get drafted, finds a way to play in the NFL for five years, gets into coaching, trains under a tree, an O-line tree that I respect, and has had success.”

His desire to come to Penn State made it easy for him to accept the position.

Franklin has always talked about how he doesn’t want his staff to move laterally, or move down. It doesn’t seem like Franklin is too worried about that.

“You talk about a guy that wanted to come to Penn State, didn’t get a Penn State offer, from our region, which I don’t think is the end-all, be-all, but does help. You have a guy from your region,” Franklin said.

“The likelihood of stability increases, where if you hire a guy who’s from New Mexico and something in that region opens



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

**Penn State’s new offensive line coach Phil Trautwein** speaks with the press at Beaver Stadium on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

up and it’s closer to home, it makes it more challenging, so that factors in.”

The journey and the success that brought him to Penn State has made him the coach that he is.

It was easy for Trautwein to accept, and it probably wasn’t hard for Penn State to offer.

“There’s going to be a lot of people that doubt you, and that’s what drives me every day,” Trautwein said.

“I’m relatively young in this profession, but I’ve been in their shoes, I know what they’re going through, and I have that mindset that I want to be the best o-line coach in the country, and I want to have the best o-line in the country.”

He had plenty of success at Florida, winning two National Championships.

At that time, the Gators were at the top of the College Football world, so it may have been hard for Trautwein to get an opportunity.

That is also an area where he hopes he can relate with the current team.

“[I’m] just a coach and a former player that’s been in their situation, was someone that was told they would never play at the University of Florida, that would never be good enough,” Trautwein said.

“But I ended up doing the little things that make you great. All the no talent stuff. I can relate to the players in that aspect, and that I can help them to reach the goal of the NFL, that I was able to do.”

Trautwein takes over on a team with plenty of personality.

His days at Florida have made

him ready for whatever the Nittany Lions throw at him.

“I had to deal with a lot of different guys, and I had to help control it,” Trautwein said.

“Me and Tim [Tebow] had to make sure everyone was happy and try to stop any fires before they happened. I could write a book about all of the stuff I had to see, but that built me, understanding leadership and being able to lead.”

His experiences have given him credibility, which now becomes very important.

He is trying to get the line to buy in to the changes he wants to make, and with his success, he should have no problem doing that.

“For me, it’s not that hard because I’ve been through out, so I’m just trying to get a plan...” Trautwein said. “Just getting them to believe in it is the first thing, when they do it and feel it. Just watching them hit the sled and I called them and said ‘how do you feel?’ and they were ‘we just feel more powerful. We just feel like we’re using our legs and are able to drive through contact.’”

“They’re feeling it and seeing it, and when they do they’re going to do the extra things and understand, and that has already started to happen.”

Trautwein isn’t coming in to make wholesale changes, but there are plenty of things he wants to address.

He mentioned that there are plenty of positives, but that there are “some things that I want to fix. Just part of the game, punching. They have a good base.”

The progress has already been seen, but Trautwein doesn’t want to just improve.

He wants the unit to be the best.

“If we want to win the Joe Moore award, which is the best o-line in the country...” Trautwein said, “We have to be fundamentally sound.”

It’s been a long time, but Trautwein is ready to make an impact at the school he’s always dreamed of attending.

“For me, it wasn’t Boston College, it wasn’t Syracuse, it wasn’t Maryland. It was Penn State,” Trautwein said.

“Penn State was that school kids from South Jersey wanted to go to.”

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## Jones

FROM Page 1.

Jones’ latest performance was a crucial one, as his shooting ability pushed the Nittany Lions past the No. 16 ranked Spartans on Tuesday. The second-year man scored 20 points on 7-of-11 shooting and provided that extra offensive output to help the Nittany Lions top the Spartans in East Lansing for just the first time in Pat Chambers’ career.

While the Nittany Lions have nearly solidified their spot in the NCAA tournament, Jones’ play down the stretch will be critical as a late season run will require a hot-shooter like Jones has been for the majority of the campaign.

The young guard is shooting an impressive 41.3 percent from beyond the arc, which leads the team. Additionally, some of his most impressive games have come away from the Bryce Jordan Center, which was once again the case on Tuesday.

At this point in the season, Jones is averaging around 16 points on the road.

Since road wins have proved to be crucial for the NCAA tournament resumes, this is most definitely a good sign for Chambers and Penn State.

Tuesday’s performance was another huge step in the development process for Jones, and the young guard will only continue to grow as his team now finds itself in contention for a Big Ten championship.

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# IDENTITY SEARCH

*Penn State is looking to separate itself as one of the best programs in the nation*

By **Gianna Galli**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's 2020 team is looking to separate itself from any other collegiate volleyball program in the country this season.

## MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

With 43 NCAA Division 1 men's volleyball programs in total, this might seem like a not so difficult task for Penn State to accomplish.

However, in a sport with roughly five important positions to fill at a maximum, a common physical appearance amongst each athlete and a similar importance role the sport plays in an athletic hierarchy, can make it challenging to stand out.

Penn State isn't just looking to be a dominant team or go undefeated this season.

It wants to create an identity for itself and an image of intimidation.

The last time Penn State was a complete team and was seen as the most powerful it was capable of being, it's record was 30-1, in 2008.

Also known as the just the beginning for two Nittany Lions that now would become Olympic bronze medalists— Matt Anderson and Max Holt.

This goal the team is looking to reach isn't about having the most talented athletes, it just wants the ones it does have to fulfill each individual role every match, every practice.

"As far as last year goes and any other, it's not necessarily different. It's hard to compare this team to last year's team and others but we are trying to forge ahead on our own and make our own identity, regardless of what happens," Cal Mende said.

It's been a bit of a struggle so far for the Nittany Lions to make this happen but after this past weekend of defeat, this goal has



Aabha Vora/Collegian

**Penn State** celebrates during the men's volleyball game against USC at Rec Hall on Sunday, Jan. 26. The Nittany Lions won in five sets.

only become more visible and realistic to Penn State.

"After the weekend our identity I think becomes that much more impactful to seeing how we react to having a non successful weekend," Mende said.

"And so this makes us realize what we are chasing after and this week at practice we will probably be the most focused we have been in a while."

From a coaches standpoint,

Mark Pavlik feels all this means for his team is just being able to be the best at everything it can be, and to approach every situation with full effort.

And by that Pavlik means he wants his passers to compete with the very best servers in the country, for its 'block to be physical at the net and challenging to everybody', and for his offense to be 'fast, precise and physical.'

He recognizes that Penn State will give up some aces and things aren't going to always be perfect.

"I'll borrow a phrase from [Pittsburgh Penguins coach] Mike Sullivan — 'We just want to be hard to play against,' Pavlik said. "And when somebody takes a swing they know there's two if not three people in front of them that are going to be ready."

More than just those 2-3

Nittany Lions although are going to have to be ready because that's what this team believes is a key ingredient to forming its identity.

"The pride that each one of their position's takes in their role to fulfill, that is where I think you start to get an identity," Pavlik said. "What you can do and what you can't do."

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# Bigar's Stars

By **JACQUELINE BIGAR**

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**AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)**  
★★★★ Defer to a loved one; not because it is easier, but because this person needs to feel more involved in the decision-making process. You cannot always have the final say -- even if you want to. Tonight: Soak away stress in a hot, bubbly bath.

**PISCES (2/19-3/20)** ★★★★★ Your creativity emerges when dealing with a child or loved one who cannot seem to get past a problem. This person has trouble seeing situations clearly and

creating simplicity. Tonight: Help out a loved one.

**ARIES (3/21-4/19)** ★★★★★ You might be focused on the task at hand; however, others seem to be elsewhere. Do what you need to do and worry less about roping in others. You cannot interfere with others and their imagination. Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way home.

**TAURUS (4/20-5/20)** ★★★★★ Zero in on a key issue that surrounds the day. Planning the upcoming weekend also might be important. Resolving differences could be positive, allowing the next few days to flow. Maintain a sense of humor. Tonight: Return calls first, then decide.

**GEMINI (5/21-6/20)** ★★★★★ You can and will make a difference if you so choose. Not only is a money matter on the table, but different perspectives emerge around the use of money in the workplace

and home. Lighten up. Tonight: Clear out an errand on the way home.

**CANCER (6/21-7/22)** ★★★★★ You feel as if the word "no" does not exist and should not exist. Your determination to manifest what you want emerges. Some of you might simply wish for a day without complication. Tonight: Create what you want.

**LEO (7/23-8/22)** ★★★★★ Pull back and observe. You might want to head in a direction that is different from that of an associate or loved one. What you are considering could be excellent. At a later point, a discussion might be relevant. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

**VIRGO (8/23-9/22)** ★★★★★ A meeting could carry greater significance than you are aware of. Someone might be observing you carefully, trying to grasp your fundamental beliefs. A friend expresses a long-term desire. Tonight: Let go of any heaviness and hang out with friends.

**LIBRA (9/23-10/22)** ★★★★★ Emphasis is on your relationship with an older person or a higher-up. You will carry more responsibility because of your interactions with this person. He or she respects your judgment and ideas both personally and professionally. Tonight: Be flattered.

**SCORPIO (10/23-11/21)** ★★★★★ You cannot continue as you have. You will lose an idea or two since so much seems to be coming from you. Jot down some of your ideas, especially after you wake up. Consider taking off a day to center yourself soon. Tonight: Accept a fun suggestion.

**SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)** ★★★★★ One-on-one relating reveals important details that you would not have known otherwise. Although you might have preferred to continue through the task as it was, the end results would not be as significant. Tonight: Enjoy a heartfelt compliment.

**CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)** ★★★★★ Go along with others' ideas. You might be 90% sure that yours are better, but let time make the judgment. You tend to be conventional, and in this case, a more dynamic attitude could make a big difference. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

### Across

1 Large sandwiches  
5 Jellied garnish  
10 Cook's meas.  
14 Fox or turkey follower  
15 Tropical vine  
16 \_\_\_ to the throne  
17 Shevat follower  
18 Fringe benefits  
19 Sitar music  
20 Swedish turnip  
22 Quantity  
24 Small freshwater fish  
25 Social rebuff  
26 Vast treeless plain  
29 Smudge  
30 Abbr. in car ads  
33 Seed structure  
34 Debonair  
35 Deception  
36 Like a churl  
37 Places in the heart  
38 Big name in pineapples  
39 Drink in a mug  
40 Squireled-away item  
41 Cause to happen  
42 Owns  
43 Openings  
44 Kind of monkey  
45 Mount Olympus dwellers  
46 Charlize Theron flick, "\_\_\_ Flux"  
47 Emotional pang  
50 Nerve  
54 Artist Bonheur  
55 Traffic sign

### Down

1 Christmas tree topper  
2 Language of Pakistan  
3 Small vessel  
4 Span  
5 Wool source  
6 Military blockade  
7 Legal prefix  
8 Octopus's defense  
9 Ladies' man  
10 Pulsate  
11 Boyfriend  
12 Endorse  
13 Kind of fall  
21 Uncovered  
23 Speechless  
25 Assassinated  
26 Synagogue scroll  
27 Throat dangler  
28 Some sculptures  
29 Small bits used in dentistry  
30 Healing plants  
31 Rice cooked in broth  
32 Stinks  
34 Ceases  
37 Scholarly  
38 Soaked  
40 Bug-eyed  
41 "Hold your horses!"  
44 Fly-by-night?  
45 Grind, as teeth  
46 Goose egg  
47 Quick haircut  
48 Sported  
49 Horned goddess  
50 Pendulum paths  
51 Minute amount  
52 Airport conveyance  
53 Eli's school  
56 Capt.'s prediction

## su|do|ku

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## WORD SEARCH

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Winter

Arctic  
Black Ice  
Bleak  
Blizzard  
Chilly  
Coat  
Cold  
December  
Earmuffs  
Eggnog  
February  
Fireplace  
Flannel  
Fleece  
Flu  
Frigid  
Glacial  
Gloves  
Hockey  
Hoodie  
Icicles  
January  
Mittens  
Parka  
Polar  
Quilt  
Sleet  
Snow  
Whiteout  
Winter

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

## Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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

	7	29	11	17			16	36	13
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					22				
35						19			
	11						8		
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	15						3		

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# Brooks full of untapped potential

By Jake Aferiat  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Aaron Brooks would’ve been fine waiting his turn, but his potential was well documented.

He knew what the situation was that he was getting into when he came to Penn State — Shakur Rasheed seemed to have the roster spot locked down at 184 pounds and Kyle Conel had the spot at 197 pounds.

That put Brooks, a highly touted redshirt freshman at 184 pounds with four Maryland state high school titles to his name, on the outside looking in to start the season.

The Hagerstown, Maryland, native spent all of last season out at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs as part of the Elite Accelerator Program (EAP) under the guidance of Cael Sanderson’s former free-style coach Kevin Jackson, as did current Penn State teammate Greg Kerkvliet.

It was there Brooks quickly found himself in Jackson’s good graces and showed his true potential, all because of one workout — a run up a famous mountain in Colorado called the “Incline,” which Brooks did by himself and at an impressive speed.

“I just felt like he had all the essentials, all the characteristics that were going to make him into a great wrestler and that had nothing to do with the skills or techniques,” Jackson told The Daily Collegian.

“It was his mental toughness and his ability to train at a high level.”



Aaron Brooks wrestles against Illinois’ No. 13 Zach Braunagel during the 184-pound match.



Aaron Brooks celebrates his win over Billy Janzer during Penn State wrestling’s white-out meet against Rutgers in Rec Hall on Sunday, Jan. 19. Penn State won 38-6.

Expected to redshirt and back at the bottom of the pecking order almost immediately, Brooks seemingly wasn’t going to be a factor to start the season — something he had to reconcile with, but something which he viewed in a much more positive light and would need some of that mental toughness to get him through.

“It’s different coming from my high school in Maryland whooping everybody,” Brooks said prior to the season. “Being here, I’m bottom of the list again as a freshman. It’s humbling but it’s all a part of growing.”

And for the first month or

so of the season, that’s what Brooks did.

He showed up everyday, practiced and scrapped with the various training partners in Penn State’s wrestling room, competed in some open tournaments and just focused on growing and improving.

But Brooks took away lessons from being in the room before he ever stepped on the mat in a blue and white singlet.

“Learning how to be grateful to be here and be excited to be here everyday and put a smile on my face, it makes a huge difference,” Brooks said before the season. “That’s the biggest thing I’ve learned so far is just being positive about everything.”

But then, the former All-American Conel got hurt and was out for the season, bumping Rasheed back to up 197 where he was an All-American two years ago, and thrusting Brooks right into the lineup at 184 full-time.

First up for Brooks was a match with Lehigh’s Chris Weiler when Penn State traveled to Bethlehem to take on the Mountain Hawks.

It was a historic rivalry in a hostile environment and yet it was the freshman Brooks who Cael Sanderson could rely on to keep his composure in the big matchup, despite him being in an upperclassmen-laden lineup.

“His first match of the year was a big match for us against Lehigh when we pulled his redshirt,” Sanderson said. “He was one of the more calm guys we had in the

lineup that day, just smiling and ready to compete.”

Brooks beat Weiler by 10-5 decision before picking up two more quality Big Ten wins beating Illinois’ Zach Braunagel, now No. 15 in the country at 184, by 9-4 decision and pinning Rutgers’ Billy Janzer, now No. 12 at 184.

Those wins pushed Brooks’ win streak to seven and continued the perfect start to his true freshman season.

After starting off his freshman campaign 7-0, Brooks ran into All-American and two-time NCAA qualifier Taylor Venz of Nebraska when the Nittany Lions ventured out to Lincoln for a dual.

Brooks ultimately dropped a 9-5 decision to Venz in a dual which Penn State managed to win just 20-18, but Sanderson, who long stressed that losing can be beneficial as teachable moments, wasn’t worried and knows what Brooks is capable of.

“Aaron’s great,” Sanderson said. “He’s gonna be right there in the hunt for the national title, so I’m not worried about him losing a match here or there.”

Sanderson’s not underselling Brooks — asserting that a freshman is going to be a title contender is high praise, especially considering only two wrestlers in Penn State history have ever won national titles as freshmen.

He knows Brooks is going to continue to progress as the season goes on and become more and more of a threat.

“Aaron Brooks is just solid. He’s easy going, just has the right

perspective,” Sanderson said. “He’s a guy we’ll see continue to improve and every time he competes, he keeps getting better.”

Brooks has just nine collegiate matches under his belt and still has a long way to grow and the possibility for an incredibly successful career ahead of him

It might take a few weeks or months, but Jackson thinks it’s only a matter of time before Brooks is a national factor.

“I don’t think he’s hit his stride and really become close to his potential or his abilities since he’s been at Penn State,” Jackson said. “I think he’s just kind of figuring out the NCAA grind and once he really taps in and figures all those pieces out which I think he’ll do by the Big Ten the NCAA championship, I really have a lot of confidence on what she’s going to accomplish, even this year.”

Jackson commended Brooks’ mental maturity and confidence in his abilities — two things which set Brooks apart from the many athletes Jackson’s coached over the years.

But it’s hard to misinterpret Jackson’s praise of and belief in Brooks no matter how you read it.

“Aaron’s one of the best athletes I’ve seen at his age — one of the best wrestlers I’ve seen at his age and not just from a technical standpoint or a training or conditional standpoint,” Jackson said. “It’s just his belief, so he’s one of the best I’ve seen at his age.”

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# Jaida Travascio-Green’s unique role

By Brendan Morgan  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Over the course of her first three seasons in Happy Valley, senior guard Jaida Travascio-Green was undoubtedly an important player for Penn State.

Travascio-Green is No. 7 all-time in 3-pointers made and is one of 17 players in program history to score at least 30 points in a game.

But after sustaining a second injury to her ACL prior to the start of the 2019-20 season, it was determined that the three-year starter would be unable to play basketball during her senior year.

However, after contemplating what her role would be this season, Travascio-Green decided to remain involved with the Lady Lions as a player-coach, furthering

her importance to the team in a different light.

“Coach [Carolyn Kieger] and Jaida came to the conclusion that she wanted to impact and lead the team in any way she could from the sideline,” assistant coach Ginny Boggess said. “That’s when coach and Jaida sat down and really decided on what her strengths were as a leader and what this team needs. Jaida has really embraced the role she stepped in. She knows the team, she knows the history, and she knows where we’re trying to go.”

Travascio-Green’s importance to the team has been recognized by the rest of the Lady Lions, who say that the Lisle, Illinois native is crucial to the program as both an emotional and spiritual leader.

“She has a real calming factor in the middle of the game,” junior guard Kamaria McDaniel said. “She comes over and she gives a player’s perspective on what’s

going on out there in the court, so she’s very vital to what we do. I think it’s a great idea for her to be [in a player-coaching role] for us with the injury so you know she’s very vital for our team.”

Travascio-Green’s role is one that involves mid-game encouragement to the Lady Lions as much as it does facilitate basketball. This involves offering an alternative leadership style than the one the coaching staff usually implements.

“I feel like I tried to combat the way our coaches lead,” Travascio-Green said. “When coach gets into someone’s face or gets into us about our defense or offense, I follow up behind them and say something like ‘Hey we got this. That was a great play. That was the right idea.’”

Travascio-Green tries to counterbalance the coaching staff’s more enthusiastic encouragement with some of her own

beforehand, while still holding the team accountable.

“I normally talk to everyone first in the huddle, and so that’s where I talk about what I think we’re doing well,” Travascio-Green said. “I just try to give them some encouragement, because that’s normally when coach is amped up, and she’ll come in and maybe lay into them a little bit, so I want to give them some encouragement before that [happens].”

Senior guard Siyeh Frazier said that Travascio Green always knows what to say to the team at the right time.

“[Travascio-Green’s] role now is kind of like [being the team’s] composure,” Frazier said. “She’s able to tell us things that we aren’t able to see a lot of times when we’re really emotional.”

Boggess spoke highly of Travascio-Green’s skill in her new role, calling her a natural leader.

“Her emotional intelligence [plays a big role in her natural leadership abilities],” Boggess said. “She knows her teammates extremely well and who needs what, when, how [and how] to communicate with them most effectively, like who needs a kick in the butt, who needs a hug, who needs to laugh and loosen up. So her emotional intelligence is really strong, but also her basketball IQ is strong as well.”

“She knows exactly what’s going on at all times and knows exactly what coach needs, so that veteran eye and the awareness to know her teammates has been really helpful.”

Kieger said that Travascio-Green has done a great job staying positive in a tough situation.

“It’s a hard position to be in, in your senior year when you blow your knee out again for the second time,” Kieger said. “You can have two choices, you can sit and sulk and feel sorry for yourself or you can figure out a way to help your teammates in a different way. She’s chosen the latter option and she’s really just trying to do whatever she can to help her

team out in a different way.”

The 6-foot-2 guard admits that while remaining on the sidelines is not always easy for her and that she finds herself wishing she was out there with the rest of the Lady Lions, she has come to recognize the benefits that her new position has brought her.

“I think it’s something that’s helped me as a person and all around as opposed to just a player, so it’s been good and it’s been a new experience that I know,” Travascio Green said. “I mean, it’s not my first choice but I’m glad that I get the opportunity to do it.”

Travascio-Green has no desire to continue coaching in the future, despite being praised for how she has handled the player-coach position by staff and team alike.

However, she has acknowledged the benefits it has brought to her life outside of basketball.

“I think it gives me skills outside of coaching, like leadership or having to confront people about things, or noticing small things and being able to point out little details to people about things they’re doing well or not too well,” Travascio-Green said. “I think that it will help me regardless of what I do or where I go.”

Despite Travascio-Green’s apprehensions about coaching in the future, Boggess said that she thinks Travascio-Green would fit right into that role if she chose to pursue it.

“Coaching is natural for [Travascio-Green] because she is a natural leader,” Boggess said. “Jaida can do anything she wants in this world. She’s very bright. She’s extremely hardworking. The sky’s the limit for that young woman and whatever she chooses to do in the rest of her life after her time at Penn State she’ll be a success.”

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Guard Jaida Travascio-Green (31) shoots a free throw during a game against Purdue at the Bryce Jordan Center on Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019. Penn State won the game 72-61.

Collegian file photo