

EYES ON DALLAS



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Penn State will play in the Cotton Bowl, marking the third time in four years the Nittany Lions will play in a New Year's Six bowl game. But did the committee get it right? Should Penn State be in the Rose Bowl?

MY VIEW | Benjamin Ferree

MY VIEW | Dylan Jacobs

No, Wisconsin earned it

As Wisconsin left a snow filled TCF Bank Stadium on Nov. 30, the Badgers were in a state of bliss.



Wisconsin dominated its rivals, left with Paul Bunyan's Axe, the Big Ten West championship and a new spot at No. 8 in the College Football Playoff.

A spot that would've placed them in the Rose Bowl.

But this spot was placed in jeopardy, because Wisconsin had to play Ohio State, for the second time this season, in the Big Ten Championship.

Ultimately, the College Football Playoff Committee got it right by placing Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl and Penn State in the Cotton Bowl.

Teams should not be penalized for playing in conference championship games. In the same way that teams shouldn't be rewarded for not playing.

The committee placed Wisconsin ahead of Florida and Penn State in their rankings last week and a loss to Ohio State, now the No. 2 team in the country, shouldn't move them behind these two teams that didn't play at all.

And this just doesn't pertain to Wisconsin.

The same argument should be made for Georgia, Utah and Baylor.

All of these teams should remain ahead of Penn State and Florida in the rankings.

If this isn't the case, the committee is hurting teams for playing in a conference championship game, the committee is hurting teams for winning games in the regular season. This starts a very dangerous precedent in college football.

If it benefits teams to not play in their conference championship games, then why play in them?

If Wisconsin beat Ohio State on Saturday, it wasn't going to the College Football Playoff, they would end up in the Rose Bowl. With a loss, Wisconsin has a chance at the Rose Bowl, but almost didn't even get in a New Year's Six Bowl.

How is that fair?

How is penalizing them for winning their division and losing to a top team in the country fair?

Especially when teams that didn't play, teams that did nothing during the week are getting rewarded for another team losing.

If this precedent is set by the committees to reward teams that don't play in that extra games, reward teams that don't win their divisions than it destroys the reason why conference championship games exist.

The reason why an argument is even occurring about whether Penn State or Wisconsin should be in the bowl game is because the Badgers won their division.

Penn State didn't have the chance to lose again, so why penalize the Badgers for losing an extra game, a game that they got into because they had a better regular season. It isn't Wisconsin's fault that they ended up in an extra game.

At the end of the day, you can sit and argue about resumes for hours, days and arguments can be made for both Wisconsin and Penn State to be in the Rose Bowl.

This article isn't about bashing Wisconsin or Penn State or discrediting what they have done this season, it's about the system.

The committee got it right.

Yes, Penn State is better

As Wisconsin tried to get the score within one seven in the waning seconds of the Big Ten Championship, FOX's Joel Klatt stated that Wisconsin should go to the Rose Bowl over Penn State because of how hard it fought.



He said it shouldn't be punished for making the championship game.

And the committee agreed.

Yes, the Badgers played in a championship game and the Nittany Lions didn't. But because of how college football works right now, rankings can't be formulated because of sentimental points. The entire season has to matter.

The committee didn't compare the resumes of Penn State and Wisconsin. Because if they did, it wouldn't have taken much time at all. The Badgers have three losses — one of which was a blowout at Ohio State and one was to 6-6 Illinois.

The Nittany Lions' worst loss was by 11, also at Ohio State, and they don't have a loss to a .500 team.

If you want to credit Wisconsin's fight in the conference championship, then you probably are only remembering the 1st half, because the Buckeyes dominated the 2nd half to the tune of a 27-0 run.

And say what you want about Penn State's first-half performance in Columbus, it was still a closer game compared to Wisconsin's two attempts against Ohio State. You could nitpick common opponents, like how Wisconsin dominated Minnesota and Michigan, while Penn State lost to Minnesota and squeaked by Michigan.

But overall, the other factors favor Penn State.

So let's look at Klatt's argument.

Yes, the Badgers got to the championship. Yes, they put up a pretty good fight.

But that alone can't be the deciding factor. We're in a system now with conference championships that pit the two winners of the conferences' divisions against each other. These divisions will always be unbalanced.

The Big Ten West has been nowhere near the Big Ten East for the past few years. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa had strong seasons, but across the board the East is again better.

Yes, coming into this week the Badgers were the second-highest ranked Big Team, but they won a division that wasn't as strong as Penn State's.

Are we going to praise Virginia for winning its division, putting it ahead of other, better, teams? Logic would say no, because we see what happens on the field.

But the Cavaliers only dropped one spot after losing 62-17. Just one.

The committee had a scenario where No. 5, No. 7, and No. 8 all lost. How did the committee move these teams?

Georgia, Virginia and Baylor all barely moved after losses, but Utah dropped six spots.

Committee chair Rob Mullens said Penn State was ahead of Utah because of resume. But why didn't that matter for the other teams?

The committee being inconsistent isn't new, but at this point, it can't be.

Yes, teams like Wisconsin played an extra game. It played in a title game. But you can't just forget the game happened.

The committee's job is to pick the best teams. Can you unequivocally say Wisconsin is better than Penn State? I don't think so.

Wisconsin got a participation trophy on Sunday. That shouldn't become a trend.

The opponent: Memphis

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

No. 10 Penn State will take on American Athletic Conference champion No. 17 Memphis in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

The game will air on ESPN on Dec. 28 at noon. This is the first time since 1975 that Penn State will be playing in the Cotton Bowl.

"I think it's an unbelievable opportunity to be in a New Year's Six game," James Franklin said. "I have never been to the Cotton Bowl before. I'm looking forward to that opportunity. I'm look-

ing forward to being in Dallas. I'm looking forward to being in Jerry's World."

Memphis finished the season 12-1, including a 29-24 victory over Cincinnati in the American Championship game in order to clinch a spot in a New Year's Six game as the highest-ranked Group of Five team. The only loss for the Tigers this season came against Temple, 30-28.

"From what I've seen, they're a very, very athletic team," Franklin said. "They're a very confident team and they're used to winning and have been doing it now for a

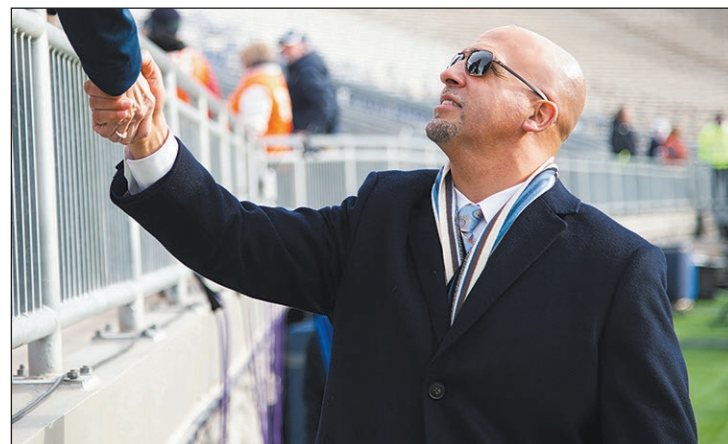
number of years."

"I know they're going to come into this game expecting to do the same thing. So it's going to be a tremendous challenge."

Memphis has a win over Ole Miss this season and ranked victories over Cincinnati twice and SMU. Memphis will be led by interim head coach Ryan Silverfield as Mike Norvell left the Tigers to take the job at Florida State. Tigers quarterback Brady White threw for 3,560 yards this season and had 33 touchdowns and nine interceptions.

On the defensive side of the ball, linebacker Austin Hall led the way with 69 tackles. Linebacker Xavier Cullens and defensive back La'Andre Thomas also both had over 60 tackles this season. This is the third time that Penn State will be playing in the Cotton Bowl. Penn State is 2-0-1 in those three games.

The first came in 1948 when the Nittany Lions made history for having two African American players, Wally Triplett and Dennie Hoggard, play in a major bowl game and breaking the Southern college football color line. The game finished a 13-13 tie. The most recent Cotton Bowl appearance for the Nittany Lions came in 1975 when Penn State defeated Baylor 41-20 to finish the season 12-0.



Noah Riffe/Collegian

Franklin extended through 2025

By Dylan Jacobs
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Rumors have been circulating for weeks, but now we know James Franklin isn't going anywhere. Penn State's head coach agreed to an extension that was unanimously approved by the University's Committee on Compensation Friday.

His contract will run for six years through 2025.

On Sunday, Franklin talked about how it's the other factors of the program that's important with this new contract.

"I mean, for us really what the contract is about is about

consistency, and then it's about obviously taking some areas that we think we need to take the next step in," Franklin said. "So a lot of different discussions between myself and Sandy Barbour and President [Eric] Barron and also our board. Sit down and have some face-to-face, honest conversations about what we want to do and where we can be."

Penn State is 55-23 so far under Franklin. Including this year, the Nittany Lions will have appeared in a New Year's Six bowl three times under Franklin.



AP Photo/Mark Humphrey

Memphis running back Kylan Watkins takes a handoff from quarterback Brady White during the American Athletic Conference championship.

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JOURNEY TOGETHER



The THON 2020 ‘Journey Together’ logo was revealed at the THON Family Carnival at the White Building on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Aabha Vora/Collegian

THON children have fun at Family Carnival

By Braden Dyreson
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Grinning Four Diamonds children and their families filled the White Building on Sunday as they participated in games, activities and crafts during the THON Family Carnival.

The afternoon sought to give Four Diamond families and THON volunteers an opportunity to spend quality time together.

The carnival’s theme was “Life-time of Adventure,” a theme that volunteer Emily Dalo said hoped to give children the opportunity to live adventurously.

“We kind of based [the theme] off the fact that some of these children and families don’t get the opportunity to go on all of their dreams and adventures throughout their lives,” Dalo (senior-biobehavioral health) said. “We wanted to capitalize on that, and make these special moments while we are here for them today.”

Dalo added THON saw a lot of student engagement at the carnival, as many students ran the booths, hung out with families or played games.

“It’s a really great way to get the THON community involved in these events,” Dalo said.

Different booths with a myriad of games and activities were set for the kids, and each booth had a different theme like jungle, Wild West, beach or space. Some of the activities for families to participate in included playing jungle Jenga, constructing a space robot and making your very own “Baby Shark” hat.

Emily Treesh-Colon, a volunteer from special interest



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Claire Seeger, 3, of New Cumberland, plays with a parachute during the THON Family Carnival at the White Building on Sunday, Dec. 8.

organization Eclipse, discussed the activities at the booth she helped at.

“Our theme is space, so what we have set up right now is a photo booth where they can an astronaut or robot,” Treesh-Colon (sophomore-cybersecurity) said. “You can also make a constellation out of marshmallows and pretzels if you like, but making snowmen instead has been a big hit. So we’ve just been making snowmen for the past two hours.”

Treesh-Colon added the Family Carnival is so important because the kids and families “really need it.”

“The amount that our support and our love and care has uplifted them is something I can’t even explain,” she said.

These sentiments were echoed

by Helen Fischman, a mother of three kids, one of whom is a Four Diamonds child. Fischman, of Harrisburg, Pa., said this was the first event she was able to take her child with cancer to post-diagnosis

“It was pretty awesome,” she said of the carnival.

The carnival ended with several events on the main stage, including organization and family karaoke, last year’s Line Dance, a family who spoke about THON, and a pep rally with the Penn State cheerleaders, Lionettes and the Nittany Lion.

The carnival culminated with the THON 2020 logo reveal.

This year’s logo features two children standing on a planet’s rings, with the THON 2020 theme “Journey Together” written around the planet.



Collegian file photo

Santa’s Mailbox sits outside of the Corner Room in downtown State College on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018.

Santa’s Mailbox brings Christmas cheer to kids

By Grace Miller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In 1995, State College experienced a little Christmas magic with the introduction of Santa’s Mailbox.

Now, nearly 25 years later, the mailbox is still open during December for anyone to write a letter to Santa Claus and get one in return.

The mailbox stands on West College Avenue, right in front of The Corner Room.

Children, or anyone in the holiday spirit, can write letters to Santa, telling him all about their Christmas wishes, and slip the letter into the mailbox. As long as they include their name and an address, each child will get a letter back from Santa, with the help of The Sunshine Rotary Club, Hotel State College and the Post Office.

“It’s one of the fun projects of the year that’s just good feeling,” Sunshine Rotary Club secretary Tiffany Mathias said. “It’s just really incredible.”

The Rotary Club collects the letters and helps “Santa” write new letters, while Hotel State College funds the purchase of postage.

Mathias described the mailbox as a “feel good” project that aligns with the club’s core values.

“The Rotary Club is all about community service, and a lot of times people feel that it’s donating money,” Mathias said. “But really, it’s giving time. And this project particularly is really about the spirit of the holiday.”

Mathias said she enjoys being involved with the program, saying it’s an opportunity to “create happiness and positivity.”

“There’s something in a child, in essence — a happiness and just spirit that you can’t really capture otherwise — in actually believing in the spirit and the holiday,” she said.

The club gets together for

two nights to write letters to the kids, but Mathias said anyone who is interested can help. Mathias said usually around 20 people will get together to read the letters and write back.

The content of the letters is often touching, Mathias said. She said she has seen kids write to Santa about things like the death of their pets, or ask Santa for gifts for someone else instead of themselves.

Administrative assistant of Hotel State College Vicky Lumpkin said the program is special to her, describing a time when a child submitted a letter too late without an address. Lumpkin personally wrote a letter in response and did research to find where the child lives so she could deliver it herself.

She said Hotel State College is involved because it’s a good way to connect to the community and offer families an opportunity to continue Christmas traditions.

“To see some of these little kids show up with a family member or a friend and open the mailbox slot and toss their letter in, they are so thrilled that it’s going to Santa Claus,” Lumpkin said.

Last year, Lumpkin and Mathias said the Rotary Club responded to several hundred letters.

However, the holiday cheer doesn’t stop there. Every Saturday leading up to Christmas, The Corner Room hosts a “Breakfast with Santa” event, where kids can personally talk to Santa about what is on their lists or write a letter if they haven’t already.

General manager of The Corner Room Garrett Nichols said Breakfast With Santa is “great for the community.”

“There’s not too many places that you can go grab a bite to eat for the parents and then also have the kids sit on Santa’s lap, so it’s definitely a hub for the entire family,” Nichols said.

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



Aabha Vora/Collegian

Nadia Fiore, 2, of Mechanicsburg, plays with a ball during the THON Family Carnival at the White Building on Sunday, Dec. 8.

New grade forgiveness policy gives students second chance

Penn State announced the enactment of a new “grade forgiveness” policy, allowing students the chance to potentially expunge grades of a D or lower from their respective grade point averages. Through the policy, students attempting to expunge a grade from their GPA must retake the respective course and receive a grade higher than a D for grade forgiveness to count. Students are only permitted to re-take up to 12 credits for the purpose of grade forgiveness, which adds up to roughly three or four courses. Although the original D or F letter grade obtained would not count toward the student’s GPA anymore, it would still appear on their transcript, showing both grades received in the course. Many seem to be under the impression that the implementation of grade forgiveness could pose a crutch for “lazy” students who

OUR VIEW

Students will benefit from Penn State’s new policy only if they are willing to put in the work

didn’t try hard enough the first time they took a course. It’s important to remember, though, that there are many reasons a student could receive a poor grade in a course — struggles related to mental and physical health, family matters, financial issues and more. Further, some say that this policy would lessen the significance of a Penn State degree, and that many — who might struggle and fail to earn a degree from Penn State otherwise — could potentially still earn a degree if they have the ability to retake certain classes. If a student is willing to retake a course and put in the work to receive a higher letter grade, why should they be denied that opportunity? If a student can prove they learned the

material and pass the class, why does it matter if it took a second try? Starting college can be a difficult and rough transition for many students, which can sometimes lead to students receiving lower grades than anticipated or desired. While some have argued the policy could lessen the value of earning a Penn State degree, the university’s implementation of a grade forgiveness policy proves the rigor of Penn State academics. It is Penn State acknowledging that its academics are challenging, and choosing to understand that students — who earned their acceptances to Penn State — may fail in their attempts to learn. However, in re-taking a course with the goal

of achieving a specific letter grade, grade forgiveness also provides students the ability to learn from their mistakes through re-taking a course, with the hope of growing from their prior missteps. Also, given that grade forgiveness can only be used on a maximum of 12 credits, a student could realistically only improve upon roughly one semester’s worth of classes — still many credits, but not enough to save an entire degree. After the announcement of this policy, some Penn State alumni voiced strong reactions, given that grade forgiveness was not an option while they were students. While they have every right to be frustrated over the fact that they could not have

benefitted from grade forgiveness, there is no reason they should want to keep this opportunity from current Penn State students. Penn State is certainly not the first university to implement a grade forgiveness policy. Many Big Ten schools — such as Ohio State University, University of Michigan, Rutgers University and Indiana University Bloomington — have already adopted policies of their own. Other schools’ policies vary with regards to qualifications for forgiveness, but for the most part give students a second chance to improve their GPAs. Grade forgiveness provides students with a safety net to try and fail, and then hopefully try again and succeed — a challenge everyone faces at some point through education. How a student rises to the occasion in a situation like that can be just as important — if not more important — than the final letter grade a student receives.

MY VIEW | Jake Aferiat

Bernie Sanders is right to take on Major League Baseball

Bernie Sanders has made corporate greed his public enemy number one. He rails against it at nearly every juncture, and he’s become well known for his talking point about the top one percent of this country owning disproportionate shares of wealth. It’s a powerful message and one which Sanders has articulated consistently for years. Recently, Sanders took a swipe at an unlikely corporation, but one which is one of the worst offenders of furthering income and class inequality — Major League Baseball. Recently, the MLB announced a plan to drastically cut the number of Minor League teams — 42 to be exact — in an effort to save money. Major League Baseball took in over \$10 billion in revenue last year, marking the 16th straight season where the



Aferiat

sport’s revenue has increased, and yet the salaries of minor league players are at or close to poverty level. That’s wholly unacceptable and Sanders is right to rail against the greed of many of these billionaire MLB owners who insist on having a hand in slashing payroll, both at the major and minor league levels. Sanders met with MLB commissioner Rob Manfred to discuss this wholesale dismemberment and at least partial destruction of baseball as we know it. There are countless stories of minor leaguers having to work multiple jobs in the off-season just to make ends meet while their major league counterparts are getting record contracts. I’m not saying minor leaguers need to make millions of dollars a year, but they deserve to be paid far better than poverty-level wages. Don’t take my word for it though. Sanders did a great job laying out his position in an inter-

“I’m not saying minor leaguers need to make millions of dollars a year, but they deserve to be paid far better than poverty-level wages.”

Jake Aferiat

view with the Los Angeles Times. In it he discussed his upbringing in Brooklyn and how he saw what the Dodgers did for his community in terms of cohesion, giving his community an identity and even going so far as to call it “a social phenomenon.” There’s one quote of Sanders’ that really stands out though. As he does so well and has done so often before, he issues a moral challenge to those entities continuing to uphold the classist systems in our country, and he spared no expense in including the MLB in his attacks.

“Baseball cannot be looked at as another business, to make as much money as possible, especially given the fact they made \$1.2 billion in profits last year. That’s pretty good. And you don’t have to shut down minor league teams in order to make a bit more,” Sanders said in the LA Times interview. Sanders humanizes the issue eloquently and speaks from experience of the minor league team in Burlington, Vermont when taking the MLB to task. Sanders is right on nearly every issue and he stands in true solidarity with the working class and labor movement of this country. Now, he’s championing another fight — the fight to save minor league baseball and the communities it so profoundly affects — and he should be commended for it.

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Penn State advances to third round



Keeton Holcomb (12) serves against Towson during the second round of the NCAA women's volleyball tournament at Rec Hall on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Jonah Rosen/Collegian

By Joey Miller
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State put everything together in its final match inside Rec Hall this season.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Saturday night marked No. 11 Penn State's second game in the tournament, and the Nittany Lions prevailed 4-1 over Towson.

After a five-set win in the first round over American University, the Tigers were firing out of the gate, starting the first set off with a 3-0 run.

The Nittany Lions stayed in the fight, but come mid-set Penn State found itself trailing by as much as seven points.

Nonetheless, Penn State kept pushing and was eventually able to bring the deficit down to two, with the Tigers leading 22-20. Ultimately, the Nittany Lions' comeback efforts were to no avail, and Towson took the first set 25-22.

The second set was essentially the blue and white's revenge for the first. Penn State jumped out ahead early and continued to build on the margin throughout the course of the set.

In due course, the Nittany Lions came away victorious, winning the set 25-16.

Towson was able to keep the third set close early on, but sound offensive play by the blue and white brought about a Penn State lead that wouldn't stop growing.

The Nittany Lions won the set 25-17, giving themselves the opportunity to end the match and advance to the tournament's next round.

Penn State was again able to jump out early in the fourth set, but the Tigers were not going out without a fight.

Towson was able to bring the set back to even, and the Tigers were eventually able to take the lead about midway through the set.

They weren't able to complete the comeback, however, and Penn State secured its second NCAA Tournament win of the weekend.

Towson plays up to the occasion

Despite ultimately losing to the Nittany Lions, the clearly well-prepared Tigers had quite the night against the blue and white as a whole.

Towson won the first set, a set in which it had 18 kills in 44 total attempts. The Tigers also marked significantly more attacks than Penn State on the match, showing an offensive focus on converting every opportunity into points.

Errors proved to be Towson's fatal flaw, with 28 on the match. Four Towson players accounted for five or more errors in the loss against Penn State.

Kendall White reaches new landmark

Penn State senior libero

Kendall White set a new landmark in her Penn State career in Saturday night's tournament matchup against Towson, in becoming the Nittany Lions' all-time leader in digs.

White broke the previous record of 1957 in her last ever game in Rec Hall. She finished the match with 14 digs, putting her easily ahead of the previous record.

White has stood out for Penn State for years now, and capped off her final regular season with literal award-winning numbers, winning Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year and earning a spot on the All-Big Ten first team.

Nittany Lions to face Cincinnati

After Saturday's win over Towson, Penn State has secured its position in the third round of the NCAA Tournament, and is set to play unranked Cincinnati, who upset No. 6 Pitt on Saturday night in five sets.

The third round will be the first of the tournament for the Nittany Lions not played at Rec Hall.

The match will be played at Stanford and will require Penn State to travel for the first time since the Rutgers game in November.

The Nittany Lions finished the regular season with a 10-2 road record, showing that they can still be dominant outside of State College.

MY VIEW | MAX JORDAN

Men's hockey continues to find ways to win

Yost Ice Arena has never been kind to Penn State, but the demons were slain after Saturday's win.



verines 3-1.

While Penn State is 7-4-0 at home and 3-2-0 at neutral sites all-time against the Wolverines, the team held a 2-9-0 record at Michigan heading into the weekend.

In 11 games at Yost, Penn State had scored two goals or fewer in nine all nine losses while Michigan scored four or more goals in seven victories. Penn State hadn't won since its third-ever game at Yost put the team ahead 2-1 in the all-time series in Ann Arbor.

Friday, the Nittany Lions attempted to avenge the team's of the past.

None of the seniors on the roster had won there. They lost in a decisive 4-1 victory.

The No. 6 Nittany Lions were once again unable to defeat 5-9-2 Michigan which had only won one conference game all year.

It's a bad look for the sixth-best team in the country. Regardless of who or where they play, good teams are always able to win. A split would have cost a lot in terms of the rankings later in the season.

Penn State proved it was a team of the future with its victory Saturday night.

A 2-0 lead and a season-high 48-save performance from goalie

Peyton Jones propelled the Nittany Lions to a needed victory.

Jones also snapped a three-game losing streak of his own to get his team back on track.

While it wasn't the prettiest game Penn State has played all year, the team was effective in both the offensive and defensive zones, with chemistry among the Limoges-Folkes-Barratt line on full display.

The team got an early lead, something they have improved upon this year, and did a good job of eating the clock while still playing a competitive game.

For a team that had previously surrendered five goals per game on the road against the Wolverines, the Nittany Lions did their best to contain the Michigan offense.

While Jones had a huge stake in the victory, the defense had 11 blocked shots and killed all four penalties to take control of the play in the defensive zone.

They played like a complete team with no weaknesses Saturday, and while it shouldn't be particularly impressive against a conference opponent during a down year, it is a huge confidence booster as well as a boost in the polls.

The team has mentally gotten

over the hump and is in a winning mentality and they will not be punished too much for splitting a series in a historically tough environment.

Penn State had been struggling this season at the faceoff dot, but led 37-34 in faceoffs thanks to quick work from Nate Sucece and Nikita Pavlychev in the circle.

Atypically, Penn State was outshot by its opponent 43-33.

While Strauss Mann played incredibly well in net for the Wolverines, Penn State found itself on the other side of the "hot goalie" issue it has been running into of late.

It was another quality conference victory for Penn State, which is something the team has

experienced more than ever this year.

It has been more successful than ever to start the season and are looking like legitimate tournament contenders.

Whether or not the Nittany Lions can keep this pace up is yet to be determined, and there will be no better test than this weekend's road trip to Notre Dame.

To email reporter: maj5547@psu.edu.
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"The team has mentally gotten over the hump and is in a winning mentality and they will not be punished too much for splitting a series in a historically tough environment."

Max Jordan



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

Jonni Parker (9) celebrates a point against Towson on Dec. 7.

Women's volleyball needs faster starts

MY VIEW | GIANNA GALLI

Penn State didn't get off to the hottest start against Towson but still managed to survive and advance.

But as the competition level continues to build, that may not be the case.

The second round of the NCAA Tournament on Saturday needed to be approached differently by the Nittany Lions than it did for Towson.

Penn State needed to improve several aspects of its performance after its hard-fought win on Friday against Princeton, compared to Towson, who needed to perform exactly as it did against American in its first tournament match.

That was no problem for the Tigers. However, for the Nittany Lions, there was very little about their performance in the start of the match that was successfully altered.

This is an aspect of Penn State's performance that happens frequently but can be future trouble for the Nittany Lions as the NCAA tournament progresses and the competition continues to grow stronger.

"Rally scores are a different animal and you gotta make sure that you don't get too distracted by the previous game and distracted by the relationship to the outcome because then it's over real fast," Russ Rose said.

Sophomore Jonni Parker saw the ability her team had to regain momentum.

And after the first set concluded, Penn State proved capable of doing so.

Parker's performance on the night included producing 19 kills and recording a hit percentage of .447, while Tori Gorrell and Serena Gray finished with a combined 25 kills.

"After the first set we came together pretty well, kept our heads up and did a good job of

not shutting down and we have to continue to always have that mentality," Parker said.

It took a strong opening from the Tigers to generate the performance Rose was looking for from his squad. But that's just the name of the game for Rose, who feels that a team has to be prepared to handle the situation.

"You realize that every team on the other side has a plan and every team does some things well and volleyball is many times a serve pass game and if the other team is handling your serve and doing what they want, that is just that," Rose said.

Penn State has been in the opposite position of having to maintain a high performance. The Nittany Lions feel that both situations are equally difficult, but nothing they don't have experience with.

"We had to be in the other situation against Minnesota where we came out and played really well in the first game and then didn't sustain it so it will be about what comes our way," Rose said.

The matchup was the second-ever NCAA Tournament game the Tigers played in, but its performance in set one not only didn't properly reflect its inexperience, but also allowed the Nittany Lions to show theirs.

"We found ourselves one set up to none but for whatever reason we were unable to sustain that level of play," Towson's coach Don Metil said. "And us being here for the first time in 14 years took a toll because Penn State was a bit more mentally strong and composed throughout some of the tight balls."

Rose believes his team is capable of bouncing back after a slow adjustment like tonight but knows that it takes a good team to do so. "The good players and the good teams have the ability to weather the storms and take a punch and they don't get too distracted when things go bad," Rose said.

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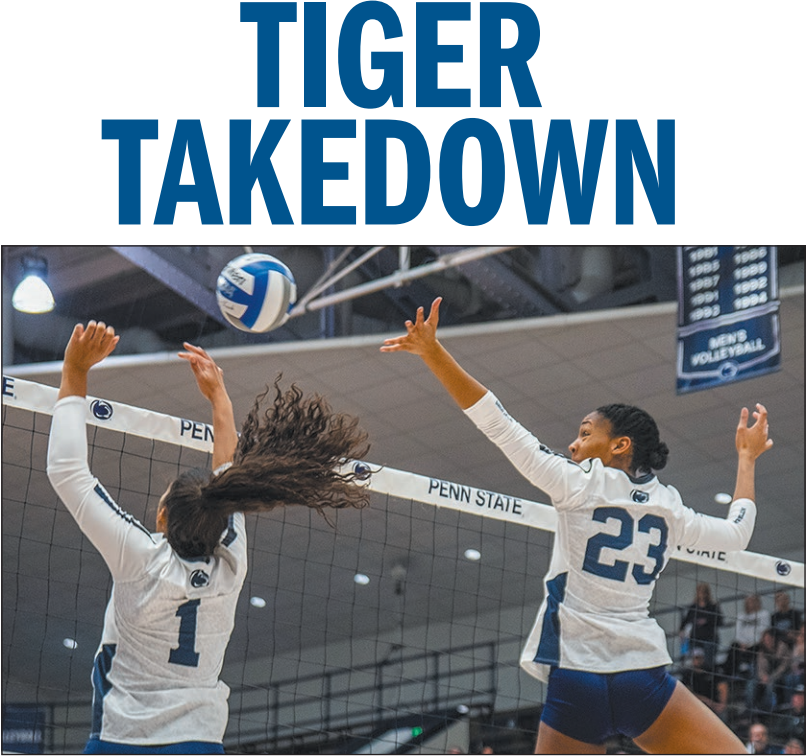


Jonah Rosen/Collegian

Alex Limoges, left, celebrates a goal with Nate Sucece (14) and Cole Hulst during the men's hockey game against Ohio State at Pegula Ice Arena on Nov. 22.



Gabby Blossom (13) and Jenna Hampton (15) celebrate their second-round win with libero Kendall White (3) after defeating Towson in the NCAA women's volleyball tournament at Rec Hall on Saturday, Dec. 7.



Lauren Clark (1) and Kaitlyn Hord (23) reach for a block during the game against Towson at Rec Hall. The No. 11 seed Nittany Lions defeated the Towson Tigers 3-1.



Lauren Clark (1) blocks a spike attempt during the second round of the NCAA women's volleyball tournament.



Libero Kendall White (3) and Jonni Parker celebrate during the second round of the NCAA women's volleyball tournament at Rec Hall on Saturday.

LION'S LIST

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Crossword

Across

1 Pilgrimage to Mecca
5 Sorts (through)
10 Scraped (out)
14 Gumbo pods
15 Permit
16 South American capital
17 Demeanor
18 Water chute
19 Blue-pencil
20 Motors
21 Popular card game
24 It paves the way
25 Red ____
26 "Let's go!"
28 Cereal grain
29 Excessively sentimental
33 Wing-shaped
34 Unspecified number
35 Read carefully
36 Prince, to a king
37 Read for errors
39 Slump
40 Media talking head
42 "____ to worry"
43 Shipping hazard
44 Spot
45 Presidents' Day mo.
46 Lather
47 Commence
49 Affirmative
50 Capital of Kenya
53 Bragged
57 Pakistani language
58 Shut down
60 Raconteur's offering

Down

1 "Where the heart is"
2 Blood-related
3 Remnant
4 Custodian
5 More secure
6 Pandora's boxful
7 Swine ____
8 Tabby's mate
9 Promise

10 One of the Roosevelts
11 Youngsters
12 Give off, as light
13 Facts and figures
21 One of the Bobbsey twins
23 Beat (out)
25 Rifle attachment
26 Influence
27 Heavenly gift
28 Lennon's Yoko
30 United
31 Some Romanovs
32 Safecracker
33 Nile snakes
34 It's often left hanging
35 Turtle, maybe

37 Kind of bean
38 Watch chain
41 Interfere
43 1956 Marilyn Monroe film
45 Periphery
46 Body of water
48 Perpendicular to the keel
49 Alpine song
50 In the raw
51 Atlas stat
52 March time
53 Kind of blocker
54 Tropical root
55 Flair
56 Remove from a manuscript
59 "Dear old" guy

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7			4			8	9	3

WORD SEARCH

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That's a Lot of Water

Bay
Beck
Brook
Canal
Cape
Channel
Creek
Estuary
Falls
Geyser
Gulf
Harbor
Lagoon
Lake
Ocean
Pond
Port
Puddle
Rapids
Reef
River
Sea
Sound
Strait
Stream
Swamp
Wetland

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

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.

		23	15	16		18	20	12
	22				7			
						17		
	18							
		9				17		
				8				
							12	5
	19	11			23	12		
35								13
							3	
4					12			
10					18			

Answers bit.ly/1CBcyRi ©2019 PuzzleJunction.com

Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

www.jacquelinebigar.com
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SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance who you care about. He or she might feel limited or off this holiday season. Your call will certainly brighten up the moment. Consider ways to help this person move through his or her mood. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance who you rarely visit. He or she has a fun-loving nature that you enjoy. Sometimes, even at this time of year, you can feel weighed down. Nevertheless, you will enjoy a conversation with this person. Tonight: Ever playful.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ Pay attention to an emerging issue, perhaps on the homefront. If you can nip it in the bud, you scarcely will notice a problem. Do not allow a situation to brew and cause trouble. Tonight: Happy at home.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★★★ You will speak your mind. If you feel you are not heard or responded to appropriately, you will most likely escalate the issue in some way. You might find that a change in attitude could be helpful. Tonight: Make time for a neighbor.

ARIES (3/21-4/19) ★★★★★ You could experience a weird feeling yet be unsure as to where the irritation stems from. Use care in discussions so this feeling does not interfere until you understand it. Finances continue to be primary. Tonight: Taking a break from all the activity.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) ★★★★★ You can accomplish what you want if you do not trip yourself up with words like "impossible" or "no." A brainstorming session helps you open up to vistas yet unseen. Let go of restrictions that are not necessary. Tonight: Put on some great Christmas music.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★ Your ability to look past the obvious might cause you trouble, yet other times it can prove helpful. What you see as a potential problem or issue helps you find an even better route to the same end. Tonight: Get some extra ZZZ's.

CANCER (6/21-7/22) ★★★★★ Your emotional nature allows you to identify with others more easily than most people. Use this skill in a meeting or discussion. Before you know it, others will support your side of an issue. Tonight: Telling it like it is.

LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★ Others often follow your lead in social situations. Your knowledge tends to draw others for advice. Though you might not see the advantage of a particular situation now, you will in time. A child or loved one wants your attention. Tonight: Could be a late one.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22) ★★★★★ Your imagination comes to the rescue more frequently than others realize. You can handle a difficult person or child with ease because of this innate skill. He or she might be upset, but not necessarily by you. Tonight: Easy works.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★★ Settle in and recognize your priorities. How someone deals with a problem might be a lot different from how you would. How the problem impacts you might be a lot different. Focus on domestic and personal matters. Tonight: Let the party begin.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★★ Reach out for a friend who might be overwhelmed by all the holiday hoopla. You cannot prevent another person from handling a problem in a different manner than you want at this time. Be a good listener. Tonight: Visit over dinner.

DOMINATE THE STATE

Penn State flexed its muscles in its two in-state matches over the weekend

By **Gianna Galli**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The dominance of a redshirt freshman set the tone for Penn State early in the match on Sunday.

WRESTLING

The Nittany Lions entered Sunday’s match coming off an important bounce back win against Lehigh on Friday and continued those ways on Sunday, downing Penn 33-7.

Penn entered its dual meet debut with two ranked wrestlers, including No. 10 Michael Colaiocco at 125, who fell to Penn State’s Brandon Meredith to start things out.

A redshirt freshman, Meredith had the crowd to its feet on Sunday and gave No. 3 Penn State its confidence early in the match as he started for the second straight match over Brody Teske.

Meredith opened up the match for the Nittany Lions, and after struggling to score on the mat for some time, he eventually found the momentum and took down No. 10 Michael Colaiocco in an 8-5 decision, Penn State’s first ranked win at 125 since 2017.

Meredith garnered the first three points of the match for Penn State and from there, the Nittany Lions rolled until the bout at 157 pounds when Penn’s first points came on the board.

The Nittany Lions were up 14-0 until Bo Pipher was beaten by No. 10 Anthony Artalona at 157, with



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

Senior Vincenzo Joseph speaks to the media during Penn State wrestling media day at Rec Hall.

Pipher filling in for Brady Berge.

Artalona was up 3-0 early and held on to the lead to win the match 5-2 and gain success for his team, earning Penn three points and putting the Quakers down 14-3 at the break.

Prior to Pipher yielding three points to Penn, much of Penn State’s dominance in the first half of the match came from Roman Bravo-Young, Nick Lee and Luke Gardner.

At 133 pounds, Bravo-Young continued Penn State’s success after Meredith’s upset win.

Bravo-Young defeated Carmen

Ferrante by 21-9 major decision, which put Penn State up 7-0 early.

Lee weighed in at 141 was in control the entire match.

The junior led 2-0 early over Doug Zapf and after three take-downs won by major decision 13-4, handing over four points to Penn State and increasing the Nittany Lions’ lead to 14-0.

Gardner’s victory at 149 didn’t come as easy as Bravo-Young or Lee. The redshirt-junior gained a lead of 4-1 on opponent Lucas Revano early in the match. However, Revano came back with a takedown to tie the match 6-6 and

challenge Gardner.

Gardner persisted and finished strong to win by a decision 7-6, keeping Penn State’s shutout intact for the time being.

After Gardner came Pipher’s loss to Artalona, one of only two on the afternoon for Penn State but this wasn’t seen as a set back to the Nittany Lions in continuing domination over the Quakers.

Vincenzo Joseph and Mark Hall came out after the break to extend Penn State’s lead 20-3.

No.1 Joseph, weighing in at 165, added six points to the scoreboard for Penn State with

Aaron Brooks impresses in debut weekend for PSU

By **Jake Aferiat**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Cael Sanderson has assessed a lot of talent over his 14 seasons as a head coach.

WRESTLING

Usually he knows what he has talent-wise and can reasonably predict a wrestler’s trajectory and future impact on Penn State’s lineup.

Every once in a while though, Sanderson gets it wrong, and wrestlers exceed his expectations — it happened with Jason Nolf and Bo Nickal, but now it’s seemingly happening with one of Penn State’s rising stars, freshman Aaron Brooks.

Brooks is a four-time Maryland state champion and won a Cadet gold and Junior World silver medal before ever arriving in Happy Valley, establishing his wrestling bona fides early.

Still, when Sanderson opted to pull Brooks’ redshirt on Friday prior to Penn State’s dual with Lehigh, he wasn’t sure how that would bode for someone who hadn’t wrestled in a dual meet since high school and was now being thrust into the nation’s top starting lineup at 184 pounds.

Brooks managed a 10-5 decision over Lehigh’s NCAA qualifier Chris Weiler in his dual debut, and established he belongs in the lineup in the future for Penn State as he suited up in favor of All-American Shakur Rasheed, who has yet to compete for the Nittany Lions this year.

The four-time Maryland state champion followed that up with another win, a much more commanding 19-4 tech fall over Penn’s Jesse Quatse, helping Penn State to down the Quakers on Sunday and close out his debut weekend.

“His first match on Friday, I didn’t know what to expect, but really he was one of our guys that wrestled the best,” Sanderson said following Penn State’s 33-7 rout of Penn on Sunday.

The Hagerstown, Maryland, native didn’t necessarily anticipate getting the nod on Friday and burning his redshirt.

But if there’s one thing that’s been drilled into the young Brooks in his short time in the Lorenzo Wrestling Complex, it’s the importance of being ready when your time comes.

“We’re just always ready to wrestle when it happens. We never know, but we’re always ready, so whenever it’s our time, we’re ready,” Brooks said following his win against Lehigh.

“I had a lot of fun out there wrestling and getting to my offense. It felt good the first time out there.”

It’s a message and a way of thinking that was instilled in Brooks by one of his teammates, Mark Hall, who knows almost better than anyone what Brooks is going through.

Hall started off his freshman as a coveted and highly touted redshirt much like Brooks, and much like Brooks, Hall was thrust into the Penn State starting lineup at 174 pounds in 2017 overtaking then-starter Geno Morelli.

The Apple Valley, Minnesota, native went on to partner with Vincenzo Joseph in becoming Penn State’s first ever freshman national champions, and while he reached the mountaintop early, Hall is making sure Brooks understands his potential and is as prepared as can be.

“When you’re training like you’re the starter, then when you are the starter, you don’t have any surprises,” Hall said prior to the Nittany Lions’ slate of matches against fellow Keystone State foes. “Those who are freshmen or those guys who’re redshirting, it’s not really time off — it’s more of a means to help you get your mind right when your time does come to wrestle in a Penn State singlet. And not everyone gets to do that.”

Brooks is one of the rare few who got that opportunity to don

one of those famous blue and white singlets and didn’t waste his debut, impressing Hall in the process.

“It was awesome. I was hyping him up all day,” Hall said. “I was just excited for him. He’s got a high ceiling. He’s already great. He’s going to be even better. We’re excited for him.”

Even with all eyes on him, in a hostile environment against an opponent in Lehigh which was looking for its first win against Penn State in 11 years, Brooks managed to stay composed on the mat and took his time off the mat to soak everything in.

“It was fun. Honestly, when you get out there, you don’t really hear the crowd that much, you kind of focus,” Brooks said. “Watching my teammates, it was pretty electric.”

Cael Sanderson isn’t shy — he projects big things for Brooks this season and once again seems to know what he has talent wise.

“He’s a spark plug. We need a spark, obviously, and he’s a guy we feel can contend for a national title at that weight class,” Sanderson said.

“With three months of college wrestling, I think he’ll jump a couple levels.”

Brooks is high on himself as well and knows he’ll continue to improve and he has seemingly bought in to the time honored adage Sanderson preaches about taking things one match at a time.

“I know the plan is to get better each week and each match,” Brooks said. “I’m excited to see the version I will be in March.”

Before Brooks even makes it to March though and looks back on his season as a whole, he can think fondly on his debut weekend.

“He wrestled pretty darn good,” Sanderson said.

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Jake Aferiat/For the Collegian

Redshirt freshman Brandon Meredith speaks to the media following Penn State’s match against Penn on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Meredith sets tone with ranked win

By **Malcolm Wilson**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

There are big, bulky wrestlers all throughout Penn State’s lineup.

WRESTLING

But in the Nittany Lions’ rout of the Penn on Sunday, it was the team’s smallest wrestler that had the biggest impact.

The Nittany Lions’ illustrious wrestling program has dominated the NCAA for years, winning eight national championships over the past nine seasons.

One of its few weaknesses, however, has been its struggle to find a dependable 125-pound wrestler to compete in its lightest weight class, as the team hasn’t had a victory over a ranked wrestler in that class since 2017.

But in its 33-7 victory over Penn on Sunday, the Nittany Lions may have found the solution to that problem.

Redshirt freshman Brandon Meredith set the bar high for his team in the first match of Sunday’s meet, pulling off one of the biggest upsets of the season.

Despite trailing 5-1 in the first period, the Pennsylvania native defeated Penn’s Michael Colaiocco by a score of 8-5, who was ranked No. 10 in the nation at 125 pounds coming into the contest.

Fans at Rec Hall erupted following Meredith’s win, creating the energy and momentum that helped the Nittany Lions win eight of their ten matches in the landslide victory.

The win gave Meredith’s teammates the spark they needed to dominate afternoon, which proved to be a difference-maker throughout the meet.

Cael Sanderson spoke on the importance of having a competent wrestler start the first match, as getting off to a hot start often acts as a catalyst for the entire team’s success.

a win by fall, his first pin of the season.

As for teammate Hall, he earned five points for the Nittany Lions with a 19-4 win for the first of two technical falls of the match en route to garnering his 100th career win.

Aaron Brooks won with the second technical fall of the match downing Jesse Quatse 19-4 to cap off an impressive debut weekend after winning his dual debut against Lehigh on Friday.

Kyle Conel was second to last to wrestle in the match, weighing in at 197.

After being up 6-1 early against Cole Urbas, an injury timeout was called as Conel was injured in a scramble.

This had little effect on the match as he gained three points for Penn State with a win by decision 6-5.

To close out the match at heavyweight, No.1 Anthony Casar wouldn’t be the guy for Penn State as Austin Hoopes got the call for the Nittany Lions.

Similar to the way the match started, one of Penn State’s young wrestlers got a shot at taking down Penn.

This wasn’t the case however, as the freshman Hoopes, who originally weighed in at 197, finished things off and was defeated by opponent Joey Slackman 14-4 to close out the dual.

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Jonah Rosen/Collegian

Freshman Aaron Brooks speaks to the media during Penn State wrestling media day at Rec Hall.