

ON ANOTHER LEVEL

Micah Parsons caps off his All-American sophomore season with a stellar performance to help lead Penn State to a win in the Cotton Bowl

Pry every day this week that he

was going to win the award, a

mindset that Parsons turned into

that I have. Know before it hap-

pens," Parsons said. "You can't

be surprised in your moment.

You have to know your moment

is there and when you are on the

biggest stage, it's time to shine."

"That is the type of mindset

Parsons said.

By Benjamin Ferree THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

ARLINGTON, Texas — In August, Micah Parsons shared a piece of advice that he was told by Mark Dupuis, a graduate assistant with the Penn State football program — a piece of advice that

Dupuis explained to Parsons that he needed to take steps from being a killer on the field, to a serial killer and finally to an

Parsons labeled himself as a

serial killer saying that "even the greats aren't assassins vet" and labeled NFL superstar Aaron Donald as a player who had flashes like an assassin.

But on Saturday in the Cotton tor Brent Pry was "I told you so." Bowl, Parsons took that step. Parsons was an assassin.

motivates and drives him to this honored as the Cotton Bowl's er and frankly, the decision wasn't the game with 14 tackles, three tackles for loss, two sacks, two

The sophomore linebacker was most outstanding defensive playup for debate. Parsons finished forced fumbles, two pass breakups and a quarterback hurry.

> Parsons was all over the field, constantly breaking up plays, clogging running lanes, making big hits or pressuring the quarterback on a blitz.

"You got to play your game," Parsons said. "You can't let others take you out of your game."

"I just had to play my game and nobody else's that is when the lavs come to you

to him as one to remember.

Early in the first quarter, Memphis had the ball and was driving and ran a reserve, a reserve that got blown up in the backfield with a massive hit by Parsons.

That was the one that I was like 'oh yeah, it's time," Parsons

But that wasn't the only high caliber play that Parsons made on Saturday, his one quarterback hurry caused a momentum changing pick-six and his forced fumbles came at critical times in the game.

When Penn State's defense needed a play, Parsons was the one to make it. And according to Parsons, it was no surprise to him that today was the day he had a career game, simply because it was raining.

"This was another level," have a good game. So when it And after he received the started raining this morning, I award, the first thing he told texted my mom and my dad in a group chat and said 'a storm is Penn State's defensive coordinacoming, this is great' and I ended

According to Parsons, he told up having one of the best games of my life.

Parsons continued by saying that it all started when he played vouth football and had a great game in the rain, this trend continued in high school and is now on full display at the college level.

"That Pitt game last year was one of my first best games," Parsons said. "Then it started to rain at this Pitt game, had another

"So then it started raining at Michigan State, had another good game and I'm like 'the rain is my thing."

And when a player is having a career game like Parsons did on Saturday, it inspires the whole

"You get ecstatic. Watching at kid grow wherever he is, it But one play certainly stood out been a blessing for me honestly," linebacker Cam Brown said. "Just watching him mature and the way he plays. He plays hard. Y'all see he makes plays.

"It motivates the team. It motivates you to want to play harder. The sky is the limit for him."

Brown and Jan Johnson both played their final games in Penn State uniforms on Saturday and both had one last chance to play with Parsons.

'I'm just happy that I could've helped him in any way. It means a lot that I can see him doing well," Johnson said. "He is an unbelievable player and I don't think he has reached his full potential yet."

'I think there is still more to

And the influence that Parsons had on the game was one that extended beyond the defensive side

"Anytime it rains, I know I will of the field, the offensive players took notice.

"Micah makes plays that people aren't supposed to make,' tight end Pat Freiermuth said. "He is an impressive athlete and an awesome football player I'm happy that he is on my team."

Wade Although, Lamont might've summed up Parsons' game the best with simply -'that boy, he is a dog.'

But even after having the best game of his career, in the last game of the season, Parsons isn't satisfied.

"I've just got to build on it. No one is perfect," Parsons said. 'I've got to keep learning. I've got to keep doing more, keep helping the younger guys... You've just got to keep building on top of this, and we're just going to keep getting better and better.

In fact, Parsons is setting his eves on another goal next season. The Heisman Trophy.

"I think the door is open... I ave a chance to do it." Parsons said. "Just being able to get to the table would be an extreme blessing and an extreme honor for myself and this program.

"To be able to do that and influence the kids, all defenders around the country and high school and things like that. That would be ridiculous."

And according to Parsons, the way he will accomplish this great accomplishment is through hard work and belief.

'It's just following God's plan. I always tell people you can't go out of your way to make the play, let the play come to you and that's what I do," Parsons said. "You can't force things to happen. It's either in God's plan or not. If it's in God's will, it's in God's will."

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Micah Parsons (11) is covered in confetti by his teammates after the 2019 Cotton Bowl Classic at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Record-setting day for running backs

By Caleb Wilfinger
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

ARLINGTON, Texas - On Penn State's second drive of 2019 Cotton Bowl, Journey Brown took a handoff and exploded through the right side of the Memphis defense, bursting into the second level and dispatching multiple Tiger defenders on his way to the end zone.

Brown was greeted with enthusiasm by his teammates on the sideline, before he put the "Lawn-Boyz" chain around his neck and stood on the bench with his arms outstretched, facing the Penn State faithful who had made the trip to Arlington, Texas.

Shortly thereafter, he would pass the chain off to Noah Cain, who would later hand the gold piece to fellow freshman Devyn Ford.

Eventually the chain made its way back to Brown, completing the cycle and serving as a bit of an indicator for how the season has come full circle for this see him play like that today." running back group.

"We've been able to accomplish a lot of things this year, and I'm proud of that," Slade said. "I can think back to when we all scored in Week 1, and each of us had an impact on the game. I got that same feeling today.'

Brown has been Penn State's leading rusher this season, and that didn't change on Saturday, as the Meadville, Pennsylvania, native finished with 202 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries in their 53-39 win at AT&T Stadium on Saturday. He ended the day with the most rushing yards in a bowl game in program history.

Unsurprisingly, his teammates in the backfield couldn't be more supportive.

"He's a great guy to have around, and he's been nothing but supportive of me since I've gotten [to Penn State]," Cain said. Even when I was hurt, he was still checking in on me and since I've been out he's been playing like one of the best running backs in the country. I was very proud to

Brown was the star, but Penn



Running back Journey Brown (4) jumps over a Memphis defender during the 2019 Cotton Bowl Classic against No. 17 Memphis at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019.

State's production out of the carry since injuring his ankle as impressive as his older mentor just its veteran leader.

backfield came from more than against Michigan State back in in the backfield. October, Cain's 92 rushing yards After registering only one and two touchdowns were nearly

See RUNNING BACKS, Page 4.

B mural showcases PA foliage

By Ashley Hayford THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The HUB-Robeson Center will look more colorful this semester as the HUB Galleries commissioned Katherine Mann to create a new mural for the space.

Mann, an independent artist and Washington, D.C. local, prepared a few potential pieces for selection for the HUB's newest mural.

work "Small entitled Planet" was chosen, and she of the piece throughout the semester in her studio.

"This piece was chosen, I think, because it combined free floating, verdant and textured painting technique with fluid dynamics, maximalism and an interest in the local landscape," Mann said via email.

'Each of the flowers, leaves or branches in the mural is a depiction of a plant or tree that is endemic to Pennsylvania and the region directly around State College."

scattered through-Plants out the mural include magnolias, fringe trees, tupelos, redbuds, dogwoods and maple leaves, along with other twigs Pennsylvania.

'I wanted to take details from mostly, tree leaves – and use them to populate a fantastic,

immersive and imaginary world," Mann said.

Along with paying attention to the State College landscape. Mann said the mural holds personal significance to her.

"The mural represents, to me, a joyful celebration of the mess of matter that make up the world around us," Mann said. "The local maple tree on the meridian in the middle of the street might not be given a second glance, but recontextualized into kaleidoscopic landscape worked on the collage elements it becomes alien, invites a new appreciation."

Installed during the final week of the fall 2019 semester, Mann signed the mural with 15 minutes left to spare before the HUB closed for holiday break.

Curator of HUB-Robeson Galleries Lindsey Landfried said she hopes the piece not only touches the Penn State community, but those who visit, as well.

"The HUB-Robeson Center commissioned this work by Katherine Mann to share high quality contemporary art with our students in the spaces they work and engage in during their Penn State experience," Landfried said via email.

"This artwork enriches the and flowers native to Central University community and its visitors by deepening a sense of place and the experience of the daily scenery of the region space, stimulating viewer curithat art engages the educational,



Katherine Mann's mural "Small Planet" in the HUB-Robeson Center on Sunday, Jan. 12.

cultural and historical dimensions of our environments."

Landfried praised the mural for being "rich, complex and dynamically and visually arresting" and hopes each student resonates with artwork in their own

"We anticipate that students will each have their own response to its physical presence and transformative potential," Landfried said.

"The HUB-Robeson Center is a cultural destination at Penn State, and we activate the arts here in the Union to address to-

ties through access to the arts." Campus Arts Associate Tam-

ryn McDermott helped Mann carefully install and hammer the mural, alongside HUB Galleries staff and student interns.

"Katherine was wonderful to work with," McDermott said via email. "While we nailed, Katherine added more layers of paper and paint to the mural to integrate her work into the architecture and surrounding space."

According to McDermott, students would stop by the mural throughout finals week to watch osity and wellness and ensuring day's complex questions and the installation process and ask serve local and global communi- about the piece. Students thought

it added energy to the space.

'One student told us how grateful she was that we were installing the mural for the students to enjoy," McDermott said. "Another brought up something she learned in one of her psychology classes. She said she learned that plants help to increase productivity.

McDermott added that the HUB team is looking forward to the student body "seeing new things within the dense and layered surface over time" and enjoying the mural.

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Professor witnesses Australia fires firsthand prime example of these record climate change that were located Australia's government and local

By Morgan Miller THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Michael Mann, a professor of atmospheric science and director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State, has spent his winter break working alongside Australian colleagues in order to observe and combat the unprecedented damage caused by the bushfire season.

Mann works at the forefront of his field analyzing the grow-

the effects of these new ecological threats. Mann said he is no dangerous new weather patterns.

The unprecedented Australian bushfires are just one example of the record breaking over a billion animals have died, extreme weather events we've the form of unprecedented heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods and superstorms.'

ing impacts of man-made climate have raged the Australian countralia in order to more effectively change and looking to recognize tryside for weeks - represent a observe the growing effects of

breaking weather events. The destranger to the extreme and struction caused by the bushfire season is taking its toll as many of Australia's major cities have experienced unsafe air conditions; which has driven some species seen in recent years around the into extinction; and Australia's world," Mann said via email, "in six hottest recorded days have all occurred over the course of this fire season.

Mann had been planning to The outbreaks of fires — which take a sabbatical and head to Aus-

there. He just happened to land right in the middle of one of the "most devastating events" the country has experienced to date.

"It's rather surreal," Mann said. "More than a year ago I planned a sabbatical lead to study the impacts of climate change on Australia with collaborators in Sydney. Little did I realize that I would arrive to see one of the most dramatic examples of that our in real phenomenon play time."

Despite efforts

volunteer firefighters, it has been difficult to come up with a solution on how to quell the rapidly spreading bushfires. While students at Penn State may not be able to directly influence the destruction occurring in Australia, the staff at Penn State's Sustainability Institute did have some advice on how students in Pennsylvania could work to combat climate change and prevent further damage from occurring in the future.

"Everyone should be looking for little ways that they can take care of the environment," Lydia Vandenbergh, the associate director of employee engagement and education for the Sustainability Institute, said via email. "Even if it seems like you won't make a difference, every individual's actions count when it comes to combating climate change."

Mann also had some advice to share with Penn State students who are concerned about the developing threat to the global environment and are looking for ways to help.

"Over the next decade we must dramatically reduce global carbon emissions by a factor of two in order to avert ever more devastating climate change impacts." Mann said. "The only way that will happen is if we elect politicians who are willing to support policies to decarbonize our economy. We all have a voice and we have to use it."

Bushfires rage under plumes of smoke in Bairnsdale, Australia on Dec. 30. Thousands of tourists fled Australia's wildfire-ravaged eastern coast Thursday ahead of worsening conditions as the military started to evacuate people trapped on the shore further south.

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> Statistics and the future of the Antarctic

ice sheet **MURALI HARAN**

Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, Penn State How do scientists study climate, and how

do they make projections about future

climate? What is the role that statistics plays in climate science? Murali Haran provides answers to these questions, with examples from collaborative research between Penn State statisticians and climate scientists. His research focuses on the future of the Antarctic ice sheet, which has an important role to play in the future of the planet. Haran explains how statistical thinking is central to science, especially now, as we have access to an unprecedented amount of new scientific data.

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It's important to remember the merits of department stores

After losing another store, the Nittany Mall could be in for a down year in 2020.

It was recently announced that Macy's in the Nittany Mall will close in the next 8-12 weeks, signifying the end of an era in more ways than one, with many more Macy's nationwide slated to close in 2020.

With the rise of online shopping services like Amazon — or even the respective sites of retail stores — it was a foregone conclusion that department stores would eventually fall by the wayside.

But this particular Macy's closing is more than just a department store ceasing operations.

It's important to realize that by virtue of being hours away from a city, having a store like

OUR VIEW

The closing of Macy's in the Nittany Mall has more of an effect than people may realize

Macy's increases access to relatively affordable, necessities from a wellknown department store.

At their core, many department stores have helped provide shoppers with easy access to quality, affordable clothing, and Macy's sentimental aspect was chief among

So for the people in the State College area who frequent the Nittany Mall and certain generations relied on Macy's for necessities, this is a loss that will be particularly hard.

And yes: the mall itself is still open, there are still many shops in the area and many can resort to Amazon and other sites to

successfully shop online.

But for the roughly 6,000 Centre staple to acquiring County residents without wired internet, having access to major department stores to shop at in person are a necessity.

There's also the to Macy's closing: many people like visiting brick and mortar stores, especially those of who grew up only shopping at malls and department stores like Macy's.

Macy's was one of the first department stores to carry provides younger everything from clothes to tools to appliances, and with its competitor Sears

also closing at the Nittany Mall in 2018, many have lost a those goods.

The Macy's demise shouldn't be totally surprising though.

It seems as though over the years, the Nittany Mall itself has failed to market itself to younger demographics, like young State College locals or college students, thus not capitalizing on a key group of potential consumers.

While malls have had merits for older people, it also people — many of whom are inherently sociable and enjoy being around others

— with a space to congregate, talk, shop or relax.

Since the Nittany Mall has seemingly failed to capitalize on the potential mass appeal to younger people, it seems as though many in those generations might not be as distraught about Macy's closing.

At most malls, Macy's is an important store and on the surface, to some, it might seem like that's it.

But in an area where prominent department stores are hard to come by, and where many don't have internet access and just generally might not want to shop online, it makes it that much more important to remember the merits of stores like Macy's and the potential communities they serve.

MY VIEW | Cassandra Kidwell

How I overcame my freshman year doubts and decided not to transfer

There is a saying that "the best time of your life" is at the ages of high school and college.

Whenever I

hometown from

school, I get a

fair share of

return to my



questions from my family members not only about how I am doing academically but if I am

"having fun."

My answer was often a lie in my first year of college, covering the so-so response my honesty would have given — that I was considering transferring. I would say I had a great high

school experience with friends I've had since 7th grade or earlier, as well as a general sociability with most of my peers. Still, I was eager to start the

next chapter of my life at Penn State. I thought about all the new friends and memories I would make in the supposed best years of my life.

But, my social life, which was never a problem before, suddenly became an obstacle to face. I was insecure, thrown into a sea of students I did not feel I stood out in.

I realized how truly shy I could be — I'm not an extremely

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outgoing person until I get to know someone.

This trait did not matter in high school, as I had a basic knowledge of who everyone was. Once I got to college, it was

easy to feel invisible.

From not talking to those around me in lectures, to the amount of time secluded in the dreaded dorms, I was put into a funk that many freshmen can possibly relate to.

While this funk did improve second semester, its dreariness continued my feelings of uncertainty about whether Penn State was right for me, but I was scared to admit that.

High school is essentially a long buildup to your future, whether that be the college route or job route. For me, this buildup created such high expectations of what college truly would be like, only to be subtly disappointed in my first year. Many, like myself, question whether transferring would be the best bet.

In the fall 2019 semester, I was sitting in a quiet corner of the library and overheard an upset freshman girl on the phone with

She spoke of how she wanted to leave Penn State after her first semester because she was feeling lost.

For some, the populated school of Penn State can be too intimidating and not meant for them. But sometimes it just takes the right group of people to make you feel at place.

After she was done talking on the phone, I asked if she was okay and told her that freshmen year isn't a breeze for everyone. I told her I went through my own questioning. Should I take a semester off and go to a community college, or should I attend another school?

Online and through social media, I saw my friends from childhood having the best time of their lives at their colleges; I wondered why I wasn't having the same experience.

She thanked me for telling her and said her freshmen year so far sounded a lot like mine. Lassured her that she can make the choice that feels right, but often sophomore year can provide the freedom and friendships that many come to college for.

I cannot universally declare that everyone can find their spot at Penn State. There are some circumstances like change of major, location and money that can incentivize a student to leave the school.

Penn State's large student population does give more benefits than just a large alumni

network and many educational offerings. It gives students so many opportunities to find where they belong — they just have to make the effort to find it.

I overcame the bubble I placed myself in during my sophomore year by understanding my mistakes of seclusion the prior year. I started off my sopho-

more year by talking to those around me in class, and I realized the relationships I made required more effort on my side to keep in contact than I previously thought.

Now, I can say I have great friendships I made at college. I found my people in returning friends from freshmen year, club friends and even class friends that I don't keep in contact with but know they're still there for me.

Although it may be overstated, joining clubs and putting your best foot forward to meet those around you makes State College more than just a town in which you attend college, but a home.

Cassandra Kidwell is a sophomore majoring in journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at cpk5276@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at @cassiewellkid

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Veterans step up in wake of injuries

By Malcolm Wilson THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It's no secret that Penn State has been bitten by the injury bug this season.

But as much WRESTLING as this could've proved a blockade, the Nittany

Lions' wrestling squad hasn't been deterred.

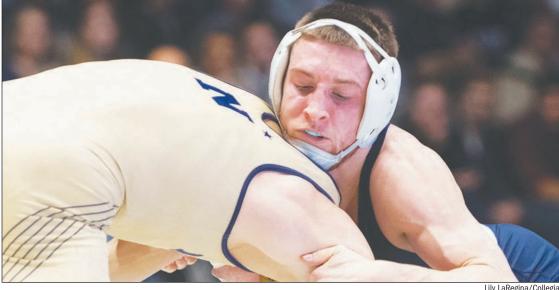
Anthony Senior Cassar, the team's starter for the 285-pound weight class and a regular point-scorer, injured his shoulder at U.S. Senior Nationals earlier this month.

Sophomore Brady Berge, also a consistent scorer and starter at 157, suffered a concussion in an international competition over the summer, which held him out of multiple matches before eventually keeping him out of the lineup recently.

Former All-American Kyle Conel also got shut down for the season after injuring his shoulder, an injury which will require the former Kent State wrestler to get surgery, per Cael Sanderson.

Both Cassar and Conel are not expected to wrestle again this

threats in the upperweights and for most collegiate wres-



Nick Lee wrestles Cody Trybus during wrestling's season opener against Navy at Rec Hall on Sunday, Nov. 10.

athletes — especially of the caliber of Conel and Cassar — is a death sentence, all but ending their hopes of coming anywhere close to a national championship.

Penn State, however, has proven to be different.

weigh the team down, the Nit-So that means Penn State of both meets they've wrestled is without prominent scoring in since Cassar and Berge went picking up the slack. down. After beating Illinois and

the turn of the decade.

Cael Sanderson said that the team's ability to succeed despite the injuries to multiple starters is a testament to the strength of the unit as a whole.

Even though Cassar, Conel and Refusing to let their injuries Berge haven't been in the lineup, the team's other stars — like Rotany Lions have come out on top man Bravo-Young and Nick Lee - have done an excellent job of

tling teams, losing two starting been gaining momentum since als, but the big picture is about did," Sanderson said of his team's

the team," Sanderson said. "And when the kids are focusing more on the team, they're going to do better as individuals, too.

"That's part of being a team, you step up, and we're all in this

Sanderson also spoke on the way Bravo-Young and Lee's dominance on the mat make up for the missing starters' absence.

"These guys know that they "We win and lose as a team. Ob- wanted to get the team off to a Northwestern, the squad has viously guys compete as individu- fast start, and that's what they

performance on Sunday.

But the weekend as a whole saw several backups inserted into the lineup over the course of two days, whether it was Bo Pipher at 157, Austin Clabaugh at 133, Creighton Edsell at 184 or Konner Kraeszig at 165.

And while that's a rarity for many Penn State teams Sanderson's coached, he admits and recognizes things are a little different this year.

'It's a little different this year. We've got to figure things out a little bit more," Sanderson said on Friday.

"We don't have some of the guys we had in lineup the last few years, it's kind of a transition year. If you don't have your best team wrestling, you're going to have to scrap.

While the Nittany Lions had a reliance on scrap this weekend, it was also veterans like Lee, Bravo-Young and Mark Hall, among others, that helped pick up the slack and make things easier.

Penn State will continue to be tested throughout the remainder of the season, especially as the Big Ten season continues and these veterans will be crucial to the Nittany Lions' success on the biggest stage.

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Penn State's shooting slump proves costly

By Matt Lingerman

empty trips down the floor.

During a more than eightminute span of intact." fruitless pos-**MEN'S** sessions, the BASKETBALL

Nittany Lions

couldn't the lid off the basket, no matter what they tried.

Some shots, like Mike Watkins' baseline fadeaway in the first 30 open looks that couldn't find the offense.

State simply couldn't get the lid off the basket until after the second media timeout of the game. While some would argue that stretch was a sign of things to come, the case can be made that the team has been trending hit only 2-of-12 3-pointers, both toward a game like this for the better part of a month.

For as impressive as the No. 20 Nittany Lions have been this season, the shooting numbers have been a problem which the squad's 12 wins may have allowed observers to glance over.

"We gotta hit shots," Pat Chambers said. "Let's call it what it is. If you had told me we'd hold Wisconsin to 58 points, I'd say we're gonna win the game, especially at

over the course of the entire 40 minutes, with Penn State finishing the day shooting 32.7 percent from the field.

In fact, the Nittany Lions didn't hit their 10th field goal until a few minutes into the second half, and that wasn't because they were liv-

State shot only three free throws Wisconsin was actually a small in the first 20 minutes. The loss to Wisconsin isn't go-

Penn State's day began with 12 ing to sink Penn State's season, and as Chambers said after the game, his team's "goals are still But this game should also

serve as a warning to the Nittany Lions that if they don't improve their outside shooting soon, tough sledding could be ahead. Chambers has always given

his players green lights from beyond the arc, and much of Penn seconds of the game, were ill- State's offensive scheme is built "I think the right guys are takadvised and didn't have much of upon shooting 3-pointers at a high ing 3s, I really do," Chambers a prayer of falling. Others were volume and turning defense into said. "And the guys who are low

Penn State has certainly shot Whatever the reasoning, Penn the 3 at a high volume — the Nittany Lions' 416 attempts through 16 games are the most in the conference by more than 30 shots but, as Chambers put simply, the shots aren't falling.

At one point, Penn State had makes coming from Jamari Wheeler, who entered the contest shooting the deep ball at an 18.6 percent clip.

During the opening eight minutes alone, Penn State missed all six of its 3-point attempts, some of which were contested, others not.

"I wouldn't say they were awful shots," Chambers said. "We got a couple of good ones there. But we can't panic, because now the basket looks like a golf hole.'

But the numbers suggest the The paltry shooting continued hoop has been looking like a golf hole for some time now.

In Penn State's six games prior to Saturday, a 5-1 stretch dating back to its upset win over Maryland on Dec. 10, the team has shot 30.1 percent from beyond the

In fact, the 5-for-21 perforing at the charity stripe — Penn mance Penn State put on against

improvement over the numbers the Nittany Lions posted against Rutgers on Tuesday.

But while Chambers will hope the results change, don't expect the methods to.

During that six-game struggle, the Nittany Lions attempted fewer than 26 3s in only one game, and at one point during the second half against Wisconsin, nearly half of the field goals Penn State had attempted were from beyond the arc.

percentage are only taking a couple, at the end of the clock, so you know I think we're taking the right ones, and we've gotta keep taking those right ones, because we do have good shooters on this team. And we're going to

continue to play that way. The right guys, presumably guards Myles Dread, Myreon Jones and Curtis Jones Jr., combined for their worst collective performance of the season on Saturday, hitting only 1-of-14

deep balls they attempted. But in gritty conference matchups with teams who prevent Penn State from getting out on the break, those players are going to have to start hitting shots in order to win.

While arriving at that goal may not be simple, it's understood in the locker room that the team needs to improve in that

"I went 0-for-5, I think Curtis didn't make anything either," Dread said. "It's just a bad day... Sometimes the ball just doesn't

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Running back Noah Cain (21) avoids being tackled during the 2019 Cotton Bowl Classic against No. 17 Memphis at AT&T Stadium.

Running backs FROM Page 1.

Cain's second touchdown of the game gave him eight on the season, breaking the single-season rushing touchdown record for a Penn State freshman — a mark that was set by Saquon Barkley in 2015.

In his first year at the collegiate level, the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, native did admit that the rotation between the four running backs frustrated him at first. But this is a group that is very close, and didn't let this unorthodox system get in the way of building a supportive relationship.

"[Adjusting to the rotation] was rough at first, I won't lie. But I think it got all of us closer, and it really taught me how to be unselfish and happy for other guys when they're out there making plays and helping the team

Saturday marked another game in which the Nittany Lions went with a running back by committee approach, racking up nearly 400 total rushing yards as a team and dominating at the point of attack for the entirety of the game.

struggled for the majority of the contest, Penn State's rushing attack continued to eat up large chunks of yardage. While the Memphis defense

was showing more fatigue with each snap, the Nittany Lions kept rotating in fresh legs, epitomizing the mantra that

has defined the mentality in the running back room since last "There's no drop-off for the LawnBoyz, and we all hold each other to the same standard," Brown said. "Everybody eats, and all of these guys in this room are my best friends. Even

though Ricky [Slade] didn't

score, he was able to get his

confidence back with that [33-

yard] run and just get back to

doing what he does."

As Penn State took the field for its final series of the 2019 season, it did so with a bit of symbolism, one that could serve as a metaphor for the team's season as a

The Nittany Lions ran four consecutive running plays to close out the game, each by the four members of the running back committee that has shouldered the load as a collective unit all

season long. Ricky Slade opened the season as the starter, Cain seemed to seize the job in October, and Brown and Ford each closed the season with some of their best

performances of the campaign. And while Brown and Cain "Our room could have went shined under the bright lights of sideways quick," Cain said. AT&T Stadium, it was Ford that was quick to heap praise on his teammates in the backfield after the game.

With this year, we really established the rotation," Ford said. "I love those guys and we've been able to grow together this entire season. Seeing how talented those guys are, and knowing what we can do on the field, it just makes us all better."

pecting to be added to the fold in the summer — four-star recruits Caziah Holmes and Keyvone Lee - Penn State will have six play-Even as its passing game ers on scholarship in the backfield next season.

With two new running backs ex-

However, the four-man rotation has not been a problem for this group all season long, and they all insist that they have no plans to leave this offseason.

It remains to be seen if a loaded, six-man backfield can keep everyone happy for at least another year. But since this year's system, there are grounds to suggest that a successful rotation can still be a reality in 2020.

"I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we'll be back,' Brown said. "I've still got stuff to do, and I know that we all have things that we still want to ac-

complish."

Follow him on Twitter at @caleb_wilfinger.

To email reporter: cjw5768@psu.edu.



Coach Pat Chambers walks to the bench during the game against Wake Forest University at the Bryce Jordan Center on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019. Penn State defeated Wake Forest 76-54.

Garrett Taylor ends career in style

By Dylan Jacobs THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

ARLINGTON, Texas - Garrett Taylor stepped onto the field Saturday for the final time in his collegiate career.

The fifth-year **FOOTBALL** senior had a goal to end his last game with a victory, and while he did that, he also achieved some

firsts along the way. And that first may have been the biggest play in his collegiate

With Penn State narrowly holding on to a 38-36 lead, Taylor took advantage of Micah Parsons' pressure to intercept a pass and return it for a touchdown, his first

being opportunistic, but as he crossed the goal line, it was as special a moment as it gets.

"It was an overflow of emotions," Taylor said. "It was a close game, they were making their plays, we were making ours. That's something we as a defense has focused on all season, saying 'It's on us. We gotta go out there and win the game, make game changing plays."

"I was just doing my job, right place, right time, capitalized on it and got into the end zone, so that felt really good."

Getting into the end zone was a surreal moment, but he couldn't celebrate right away. He had to make sure it was real.

"Right place, right time, caught the ball and I took off and the first thing I looked for was flags," Taylor said. "Just to make sure there were no flags on the field."

It was a moment that doesn't happen in too many players' careers. Not a lot of players can make that type of play in their final game.

But it's something always on the mind.

career pick-six. Maybe it was a case of just

> that." Sean Clifford said. "Tav- a situation like me. Didn't really Tigers took over with plenty of lor] is one of the hardest working, if not the hardest working guys in this program. He comes into work every day with a plan. Comes into has only been on this level the work every day to get everyone around him better. That's what makes him great and that's why he's in a position to make those plays. super excited for 17 and he's going to go on and do great That hard work has paid off the

redshirt junior year. Fellow safety Lamont Wade

knows what that's like and has learned a lot from him because

"You dream of moments like ery day because he was kind of in

Garrett Taylor (17) runs into the endzone after intercepting a pass during the 84th Cotton Bowl Classic at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Saturday, Dec. 28, 2019.

last two years, but it wasn't that easy at the start. The Virginia native didn't play much early in his career, only breaking through and becoming an impact player his

'Garrett is a tremendous dude. His work ethic is second to none," Wade said. "He works so hard ev-

play the first two years, and had to grind to get to where he is at."

While his play on the field past two years, his dedication off of it has been there since the beginning.

And because of it, he'll leave a lasting legacy on his teammates.

"To go out like that," PJ Mustipher said. "[Taylor's] a leader on this team, he's a captain. He's done his time here and has produced at a high level. He's someone we'll remember because he instilled a lot of the values that coach says.

But not only was an important moment for him personally, it also came at the perfect time for the Up by two, the Nittany Lions

went for it on fourth down instead of attempting to extend the lead to five with a field goal.

They didn't get it, and the

momentum.

Three plays later, the ball was going the other way, and so were Memphis' chances of winning. 'Obviously, it was at a huge time

in the game..." James Franklin said. "But then for our defense to come back in what you consider a sudden change situation and be able to get that play, I think it was a huge momentum play.' The offense was feeling the pressure, knowing that they

would have to keep on scoring to hold off the Tigers and their offense. That touchdown was a big

When the defense puts points on the board, it makes the offenses job a lot easier," Clifford said. "And it also gives us a lot of momentum. Their offense was moving it pretty well in the first half and we had to pick the defense up a little bit, but at the same time,

it's football. There's a balance and that's how this game goes."

"I threw an interception today... but they bounced back and got us a score, flipped momentum."

Both teams were having their way offensively, and it was going to take a play from a defense to change the game. And that's exactly what Taylor did.

"We were giving up a little too much I would say, but we were holding them to field goals pretty much the whole second half, but we knew we needed to make a big play on defense, and that did it for us," Taylor said. "From then on we were playing fast and confident and we closed out the game they way we wanted to.'

Parsons may have helped, but it was Taylor who found the end zone to seal the game.

It was an end to a career that couldn't get much better.

"I was telling [Taylor] all day, 'End it on a good note," Wade said. "You can't end it on a note better than that with a touchdown."

As the celebration began, it was a moment that Taylor was envisioning.

"It felt really good," Taylor said. "We talked about it all week, being that team with the confetti coming down on you, the hats, shirts, holding that trophy up. It was a lot of hard work, a lot of dedication."

Taylor will no longer suit up for the Nittany Lions, certainly leaving a hole in the safety spot that they need to fill.

And even though it took him a couple of years to make his mark at Penn State, he has no regrets about how he got to this point.

"It's a heck of a way to go out as a senior, last game wearing the Penn State uniform," Taylor said. "I wouldn't change anything for the world."

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Type of reader

- Business leader 10 Barrel
- 14 Isaac's firstborn
- 15 Rinse, as with a solvent
- 16 Wheel connector
- 17 Lemur feature 19 It may be proper
- 20 Like some scientists
- 21 Invitation request
- 22 Wild dog of Australia
- 23 Harvard rival Foreboding
- 26 Like a haunted house
- 29 Betting option
- 33 Luau dances
- 34 Substantial
- Witchy woman
- 36 Rich Little, e.g.
- 37 Flowering tree
- 38 Two-wheeler 39 Table part
- 40 Day of "Pillow
- Red Sea nation 42 Computer device
- 44 Most attractive 45 Affectedly
- creative
- 47 Fool 50 Kind of

- Ethiopia

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Salon offering

59 Dreamlike state

63 Partner of means

60 Done with

Swarms

61 Aroma

- 46 Ocean predator

- High ball?
- 54 Help in a holdup
- 55 Capital of
- proportions

- 2 Where Bhutan is 3 Touch down

 - 4 Kind of shot
 - Slight

 - 6 Drink garnish
 - 10 Eyetooth 11 Neural transmitter

 - Conducted

 - Swallow

 - 8 Colorado native
- 13 Casino game of chance 18 Snares 22 Resist

24 Tough tests

27 Indian coin

30 Doorbell

34 Unite

31 Movie shots

28 Plaintive piece

Not so hot

32 Insurance worker

Water under the

25 Acarid

slimy kind

12 Garden pest of the

sci-fi bomb) 43 Teasing repartee 23 Calendar span

38 Phi

44 Calamities

40 Rowboat

41 "The Beast of

Flats" (1961

- 46 Poppy product
- 47 Defense acronym
- 26 Soft whitish calcite
 - 48 Footnote note 49 Pianist Peter
 - 50 Periphery 51 Hot rock 52 Heed 53 Blocks

55 Toward the tiller

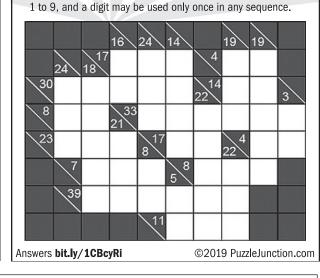
56 Rightful

57 Fiddle stick

(Cross Sums) Kakuro 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

bridge



su do ku © Рарросом 6 5 1 4 6 9 4 7 5 8 9 6 8 3 6

ARIES (3/21-4/19) *** Plunge into your work or a project. Your focus will be on achieving results that are not only accurate but also impress the boss. Others and being the propriet a admire your precision and ability to come up with novel ideas. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home. **TAURUS** (4/20-5/20) ★★★★ Whereas

as if there is no tomorrow. **GEMINI** (5/21-6/20) ★★★★ One-on-one relating helps point you in the right direction. You also naturally brainstorm with

with your favorite person. **CANCER** (6/21-7/22) ★★★★ You could

be emotional over an evolving situation. You quickly make calls and seek out other opinions. A brainstorming session a friend. LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★★ You start the day full of vim and vigor, but you sud-denly become bogged down in financial

matters. Accepting the facts as they are proves to be vitally important. Do not ignore details either. Tonight: Make it your treat. **VIRGO** (8/23-9/22) ★★★★ You might

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★★ Tension

could go until the wee hours.

about finances.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★ Reach past the obvious for answers. If

so. Though many different ideas come up, you will be selective about the one you choose. Tonight: Consider planning a weekend jaunt. **AQUARIUS** (1/20-2/18) ★★★★ You might be more responsive in the a.m. As a result of a personal bond, you will

you feel the need to find an expert or a group of friends to brainstorm with, do

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★★ Defer to others, even if you feel that your ideas are better. Those around you need to know from working with various situations. A loved one lets you know how much he or she cares. Tonight: Say yes to an

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others are stumped, you grasp the problem at hand and find a solution with ease. In fact, you come up with several ideas. A person you meet today seems to serve as a creative muse. Tonight: Act

tion. You also induring brainson.

the other party. You could come up with an unusual solution, which might be an excellent choice. Tonight: Enjoy being

do not need to immediately come up with the solution. Tonight: Meet up with

believe that you got up on the wrong side of the bed, but you could discover that belief is not valid. Unexpectedly, you steal center stage and take the lead. Others follow you naturally. Tonight:

Observe and contemplate your options

necessary. Feel free to delegate tasks to others; you will be more effective that way. Tonight: Play it low-key. SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★ Zero in on what you want. A friend or a in on what you want. A rriend or a loved one supports you more than you expected. Go for what you want and desire, knowing that you are likely to achieve just that. Tonight: A meeting

mounts as a boss or an authority figure demands certain tasks from you. Do

not say no. Follow through on what is

Tension builds to achieve more of what you want. You will need to absorb more information and details. How you see an evolving situation could transform as you hear more details. Tonight: Be practical about figures.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★

invitation

they are competent, which will evolve

be able to come up with a solution. The exchange could be quite dynamic and may help you resolve another issue as well. Tonight: Be a duo.

Page 6 | Jan. 13-15, 2020

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