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## THE PARSONS EFFECT

Jonah Rosen/Collegian

By Ben Ferree  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was halftime of the 2018 Blue-White game and Penn State was completing its tradition of introducing every member of the upcoming freshman class.

When it was Micah Parsons' turn to be introduced and his name rattled around the stadium, Parsons spread his arms, the fans got to their feet and gave the loudest cheer of anyone introduced that day.

At that moment, it was clear, Parsons was no normal freshman. He would not have a normal career and wouldn't leave a normal legacy behind at Penn State.

And that starts with Parsons' mindset which he developed his freshman year after hearing a word of advice.

"Only you decide what your future is going to be and that stuck with me," Parsons said. "You can be a special player and a special person, but only you dictate that. That took home because most of us as people, we let people dictate our futures. We let people hold accountability in our lives when we don't have to and it's really just us."

"You think of all the influences you had as a kid and as you are growing up and people coming into your life saying different things and telling you how you should change, but really, you should just be yourself and show them why I am a boss."

Parsons is now in his second season in Happy Valley and has appeared in every game the past two seasons for the Nittany Lions.

But even after being selected as a freshman All-American by multiple media outlets last season, Parsons is still chasing the lofty expectations that came with him to Penn State.

"Coach Franklin is big on visions and I had a vision for myself and this program," Parsons said. "My vision was to be that guy that you see on the jumbotron like during the introductions."

"I envision myself being a leader on this team. I envision myself being the best linebacker in the country."

This goal, of being the best, was one that Parsons formed long before his time at Penn State and long before he was a highly touted five-star recruit.

It was one that formed in Harrisburg.

Parsons started playing football when he was five years old for the Harrisburg Packers and even though he didn't know what he was doing on the field, a love of the game of football was formed.

"His first year was the funniest because he was just a big kid and he didn't really know all the plays but he would just tackle everybody," Terrence Parsons, Micah's father said. "The defense, the offensive players, his teammates, he just liked to be out there on the field, like you would literally have to pull him off because he just wanted to be out there."

When Parsons was eight, he moved with his father out of Harrisburg and to Central Dauphin, a place that would play an important role in shaping who Parsons is today.

As Parsons grew older and tried a variety of sports other than football including basketball, wrestling,

track and baseball, one thing became clear.

Parsons had a different attitude, a different approach to sports than other kids.

"Everything he played it seemed like he was at the top of his game," Terrence said. "It's that thing inside of him that says 'I have to be the best, I have to be the leader.' That's something that was born with him."

"It's not something we could teach him."

This attitude helped Parsons dominate on the football field in high school at Central Dauphin, one of the traditional powerhouse school districts for athletics in southern Pennsylvania and started to gain some attention around the country, especially from Penn State.

"I remember when James Franklin got the job and he made the statement that we are going to keep the best players in Pennsylvania at home," Terrence said. "Then, his sophomore year around November, Penn State called and offered him a scholarship. It came quick."

In February, Parsons committed to Penn State, a decision he wanted to make for a year prior.

"In ninth grade, he wanted to commit but I was out of town and said, 'no you can't commit, it's too early, you still have three years,'" Terrence said. "He said, 'but if I commit, I can start recruiting other kids.' Yeah but you could still recruit kids but you need to see some stuff."

"10th grade year he went up here, he committed and he didn't tell me that he was going to commit because I might've talked him out of it."

But in 2016, his junior year, Parsons faced adversity.

Parsons moved in the middle of the football season back to the city of Harrisburg from Central Dauphin after disciplinary action was taken by the school district. At Harrisburg, Parsons did everything.

He was a star defensive end, just like at Central Dauphin, but he was also a running back, the kicker and the punter.

And this is when his recruitment took off.

All of a sudden the handfuls of offers that Parsons received turned into offers from Ohio State, Alabama and Oklahoma.

Parsons was quickly labeled a five-star recruit, the top player in Pennsylvania and a top-10 player in the country by all the major recruiting outlets.

And then his decommitment from Penn State came.

"He decommitted because he didn't really get to see enough to say this is where he wanted to be the next three, four years of his life," Terrence said. "So, I just told him 'this is your decision but ask Franklin if you decommit, will your scholarship still be on the table or will you lose it?'"

Micah called Franklin and asked him this difficult question and the response was one full of belief and trust in Parson's decision.

"Coach Franklin said 'until you tell me you don't want to be here the offer is on the table,'" Terrence said.

Throughout the entire recruitment process, Parsons'

father had his doubts about whether Micah was as talented as everyone made it seem.

"I remember when he was maybe seven, when we were watching football, he made this comment that he was going to play in the NFL and I just laughed, but now it could be a reality. It's still hard to grasp," Terrence said.

"You just have to keep praying and take it one day at a time, because you never know what God's plan is for us."

Penn State and Franklin rode out Parsons' recruitment process, until on Dec. 20, 2017, Parsons posted a video on his Twitter account that concluded with him opening the gates at Beaver Stadium and walking on the field. Parsons wasn't going anywhere.

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Although, it didn't come as easy as Parsons thought, the transition, even for one of the top recruits in the country to the college game was hard.

"Everyone believes they are ready but when you get on campus and you go through the workouts, you go through the playbook, you are never really ready," Parsons said. "That's my biggest message when I go back home and kids ask me 'How's college?' I say you need to get beyond mentally prepared."

"Whatever you think you are doing, do 10 times more because it's never what you think it's really going to be. Some people get shocked when they get here. So the mental aspect of just going through the playbook and going full speed while you are trying to do that is just extremely hard."

One thing that Parsons immediately grasped and worked hard at was the academic side of college football and now Parsons is on track to graduate from Penn State next December.

On the field however, Parsons credits Jarvis Miller, a linebacker who transferred to UMass, as someone who helped his transition and develop him into the football player he is today.

"[Miller] brought out a competitive attitude in me that I wasn't used to," Parsons said. "In high school, I never really lost at anything."

"So I came here and he was beating me in drills. I was just a young buck, he's clowning me so when summer came around and I got in shape and getting faster and stronger and started beating him so we brought out a side of each other."

And it was a side that was important for Parsons to learn.

"I think that just showed him what college football is," Miller said. "You aren't always going to be the biggest, strongest, fastest and that got to the forefront really quick really quick when he got to college."

"I think those winter workouts really shaped and molded him."

See **PARSONS**, Page 4.



Briana San Diego/Collegian

**Micah Parsons (11)** takes down an opponent during the game against Indiana at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 16.



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

**Linebacker Micah Parsons (11)** tackles down Michigan State tight end Matt Dotson (89) during the game against Michigan State at Spartan Stadium on Oct. 26



# ‘Earthquaking’Penn State energy

How one Penn State student measured the seismic activity of the White Out game

By Noor Al-Ahmad  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

While other students might have attended last month’s iconic White Out game decked out in white and excited at the prospect of being able to put aside their academic worries, Lindsey Jacks attended the event enthusiastically declaring to her friends, “I’m doing some science tonight.”

With three seismometers in hand, Jacks (senior- Spanish and geoscience) intended to capture the crowd’s engagement and energy throughout Beaver Stadium, and so she chose to spend the night attracting strange, questioning looks to her curious, chicken basket-covered devices.

However, Jacks’ endeavor was not as strange as it might have looked, as other projects such as the FanQuakes project and Michigan Shake have similarly sought to capture audience responses to football games through locally sourced seismic signals relative to their magnitude on the Richter scale.

Spurred by the enthusiasm and encouragement of Penn State professor Charles Ammon, Jacks recalled she was initially inspired by passing remarks of the project the professor offered to students of his freshman seminar — to record seismic data in Beaver Stadium.

“I didn’t really know what the data was going to look like, I didn’t know if it was actually going to work... the week leading up to it, people were saying this game is going to be ‘seismic’ and I thought, ‘You have no idea,’” Jacks said.

However, Jacks’ study displayed some of the seismic data she has collected from the game — with the following graph dis-



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

**Fireworks** shoot off the roof of the stadium as Penn State players take the field before the game against Michigan at Beaver Stadium on Oct. 19.

playing the third Michigan down during the game.

One can see that in the section just before the big eruption of noise to the right of the graph, the thick anticipation of the subsequent fourth down initially generated a fairly long and consistent spread of energy from the rowdy crowd before producing a silent moment of anticipation in which everyone had believed a Michigan player caught the ball.

However, the following eruption from the crowd illustrates the huge wave of fervor once the crowd realized the player failed to do so, and the ball actually belonged to the Nittany Lions.

Although she is still in the early stages of her research, Jacks claimed that above all, touchdowns unsurprisingly seem to produce the largest effects, with songs such as Sweet Caroline also playing a significant role in sustaining the crowd’s energy.

“From my preliminary calculations, the touchdowns produce a magnitude 5 earthquake — if you’re right in the stadium and on the stands, that’s what it feels like,” she said.

Jacks mentioned the further encouragement she received from Penn State’s Geoscience Advisory Board, which recommended she compile and present the data not only to produce further work on the project, but also to potentially attract broader audiences to the wide scope of geosciences as a whole.

As president of the Geoscience Club, Jacks also said she felt excited to share and discuss the data among her peers.

One thing that stands out about Jacks is her enthusiasm for the field of geosciences as a whole. Anna Ciambotti, her roommate who has known Jacks since her freshman year, said Jacks brings adventures into her life since

meeting in a math class their freshman year.

“Lindsey does not let the hard math and science classes of the major bring her down, she always focuses on her love for rocks,” Ciambotti (senior-secondary education social studies) said.

Indeed, the subject of Jacks’ love for rocks was clearly apparent not only in her academic pursuits, but also in her sentimental stories pertaining to her personal rock collection.

Throughout her extensive European travels, Jacks passionately described how the fascinating connection with something as mundane and easily overlook as a rock may reveal and distinguish the entire history of a particular environment.

“I was in Norway last summer, hiking through a fjord. I sat down on a rock and there was a little garnet — they’re called porphyroblasts — that I got so excited

because that indicated metamorphism, so you could see something had happened to this rock long before I got there that made it different,” Jacks said. “The chemical changes the physical changes — just by looking at this rock, I could tell that there were giant glaciers there for a really long time.”

Despite challenges pertaining to how to best present and code the data, Jacks has emphasized that this White Out project, informal as it might be, has been a great learning opportunity which she hopes to potentially start an infant study with.

With the faculty and industry professionals which the Geoscience Club exposes her to, Jacks has since not only contacted previous FanQuake researchers so as to utilize their metric, but has also learned that she has access to all of the events at Beaver Stadium through the fiber optic cable which runs through the stadium.

Some might note that the more intriguing aspects of Jacks’ work is the future potential it holds — particularly in regards to raising awareness for geoscience, a field which is gaining traction politically and socially as states begin to rollback solar energy spending and the effects which increased fracking have had on communities all over the country.

This project is one instance of one student attempting to spread her love of rocks and inspiring colleagues such as fellow earth and mineral sciences major and roommate to Jacks, Diana Apoznanski, who expressed her enthusiasm toward the project.

“People get the chance to see that geoscience is much more than geeking out about rocks,” Apoznanski (senior-meteorology) said, “and it is happening every home game in Happy Valley.”

# Where Penn State’s water comes from

By Lilly Riddle  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

If you’ve ever been to the HUB-Robeson Center, the gym or the hallway outside your dorm, you’ve probably seen a water fountain or two. But where does all of Penn State’s drinking water come from, and should students be concerned about its quality?

Demian Saffer, a Penn State professor in the geosciences department, specializes in geohydrology — the branch of science that deals with underground water. One of his areas of expertise

is groundwater flow.

“Penn State is kind of fortunate that we have a pretty high quality groundwater resource. We don’t rely on surface water, like creeks, streams or lakes for the water supply. It comes from wells and the aquifer, or the formation where the water is stored and flows through,” Saffer said. “[Penn State’s aquifer] is fractured limestone, which is a rock that underlies Happy Valley, Penns Valley and basically all of Central Pennsylvania.”

Saffer said the rock has two ideal characteristics — its

fractures and the speed with which it refills.

“Those fractures in the rock basically allow pretty quickly. So when you drill the well, you can actually get hundreds of gallons per minute out of that well. There’s not as much resistance to flow,” Saffer said. “It also recharges

very easily, and it’s replenished by precipitation, snow melt or rainfall, which finds its way back into the aquifer about four or five

times more rapidly than what you might expect.”

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Collegian file photo

**A student** holds a water bottle in her backpack on Sep. 19, 2018 at Old Main.

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# Charles Barkley’s joke was wrong, but so is violating journalistic ethics

Basketball Hall of Famer and Inside the NBA host Charles Barkley issued an apology Wednesday after Axios reporter Alexi McCammond Tweeted that Barkley threatened her during an off-the-record conversation, later adding that Barkley said he was making a joke.

“I don’t hit women but if I did I would hit you,” is what McCammond Tweeted that Barkley said to her on Tuesday.

McCammond also Tweeted that when she objected, Barkley told her she couldn’t take a joke.

In his post-playing days, Barkley has made a career on walking the line of what is acceptable humor in his NBA analysis, and this statement isn’t too far off from his many controversial jokes. And it probably won’t change

## OUR VIEW

### Alexi McCammond violated journalistic ethics by Tweeting off-the-record comments

many people’s opinions of him, especially those that have experienced this version of Barkley for decades.

According to McCammond’s Tweets, Barkley made the comment to McCammond after she called him out for claiming to support Deval Patrick — a new candidate in the presidential race — and then saying he loves Pete Buttigieg once someone from Buttigieg’s campaign joined the conversation.

Nobody is denying that what Barkley said is wrong — but McCammond’s decision to violate journalistic ethics by Tweeting something said off-the-record is wrong, too.

What was McCam-

mond trying to do by Tweeting Barkley’s off the record quote? And was it worth it? Was she more entitled to do so considering the comment was about her?

These are all valid questions that have arisen about the situation.

With the toxicity of cancel culture and social media today, any accusatory Tweet such as McCammond’s has the potential to backfire — she was faced both supporters and backlash, and negative comments were fired at her and Barkley alike.

Comedy is undeniably hard in this day in age, as every joke likely offends someone, and this was the case here

for Barkley and McCammond. Jokes about abuse and violence are not funny or acceptable, but looking at the context of the situation, it doesn’t seem like McCammond was in real danger.

McCammond had to know that her Tweet would blow up, and the whole scenario feels like an attempt to expose Barkley for making a horrific joke, which isn’t entirely out of the ordinary for Barkley’s character.

But, especially in an age with so much distrust in the media, McCammond’s decision has the potential to contribute to a trend limits the credibility of other journalists. Barkely will still have

a platform — he will recover from this, and his followers probably weren’t phased by this statement given his propensity to walk humor’s fine line.

The only time journalists should truly contemplate breaking the confidentiality of an off-the-record conversation is if someone’s life is in danger, and this wasn’t the case here. If McCammond felt truly threatened by Barkley’s comment she could have gone to the authorities or someone who could do something about it — not Twitter. Off the record means off the record.

Again, what Barkley said is wrong — there’s no denying that — and he should not have made such a violent joke in the first place. But for a variety of reasons, McCammond shouldn’t have Tweeted it, either.

#### MY VIEW | Jake Aferiat

# On states rights and marijuana, Biden is out of touch yet again

Joe Biden has been on the wrong side of history numerous times throughout his political career that has lasted over 40 years.

From his support for the Iraq War, to his bad ideas on climate change, his support for segregated busing to his disastrous

1994 Crime Bill, Biden has a long and problematic record.

Sure there are some good things like his support of the Violence Against Women Act, but we’re getting further and further removed from the days of when Joe Biden embodied even some semblance of bona fide progressivism.

On Monday, Biden doubled down on his questionable record and positions when he insisted marijuana is a “gateway” drug.

There’s plenty of evidence to disprove Biden’s claim, though plenty of politicians are out of touch or just straight up wrong, so that can be forgiven.

My real issue with Biden’s stance is he opposes national legalization efforts and thinks it should be left up to the states.

It’s easy to think a liberal

state would support legalization and a more conservative state would oppose legalization, but it’s the conservative states that have mass incarceration problems and promote “law and order” criminal justice reform ideas.

However, there’s one liberal state that could be an outlier in Biden’s plan and it’s my home state of New Jersey.

It was recently announced the marijuana legalization efforts in New Jersey — a state where Democrats hold the governorship and both legislative branches — have stalled and will be put up to a ballot measure for citizens to vote on.

Now, it’s likely to pass by referendum when it comes up to a vote, as polls show a majority of New Jerseyans support legalization.

But, still this was a major legislative blow for Governor Phil Murphy, who pushed for legalization efforts both from an economic and more importantly from a social justice perspective.

Without going into too much detail, the bill failed for a myriad of reasons, including the presence of powerful Democratic leaders who self identify as “conservative” and have a stronghold on South Jersey,

“...as long as New Jersey’s current powerplayers remain in office, no laws legalizing marijuana will pass the state.”

Jake Aferiat

where the State Senate President and Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly hail from.

The pair are beholden to the powerbrokers and have frequently fought the governor on legalization at nearly every step.

That’s why Murphy has made a big deal about legalization and expungement of records and spoke out strongly against New Jersey’s current laws.

“My belief that our current marijuana laws have failed every test of social justice and that the right course is to legalize its use by adults has not changed,” the Democratic governor said in a statement first reported by NJ.com “I am disappointed that we are not able to get this done legislatively and that our failed status

quo — which sends roughly 600 people to jail a week for possession, the majority of them people of color — will continue,” Murphy continued.

Murphy is absolutely right — people of color are disproportionately incarcerated despite similar usage rates to white people and it’s a wrong that needs to be righted and as long as New Jersey’s current powerplayers remain in office, no laws legalizing marijuana will pass the state.

That’s where Biden enters into this equation.

If a state like mine that’s as liberal as New Jersey and has strong Democratic majorities at all levels of government won’t legalize marijuana, then we can’t expect more conservative states to do the same and to lead the charge on criminal justice reform.

Biden is wrong about marijuana and its effects, but his position on leaving it up to the states could lead to the mass incarceration and continued incarceration of far too many people for something as insignificant as marijuana possession.

**Jake Aferiat** is a junior majoring in print & digital journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at [jxa5415@psu.edu](mailto:jxa5415@psu.edu) or follow him on Twitter at [@Jake\\_Aferiat](https://twitter.com/Jake_Aferiat).



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# FIELDS OF DREAMS

*Quarterback Justin Fields has had a strong season for Ohio State, showing Penn State what it could have had*

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Fans could only sit back and think one thing — “What if?”

A couple of years back, it looked like Justin Fields was destined to lead Penn State onto the field as its new starting quarterback.

The five-star quarterback from Kennesaw, Georgia, had committed to join the Nittany Lions in December of 2016, legitimizing the quick turnaround of the program that started that season.

But a few months later, that all went away with Fields decommitting, a decision that wasn't easy.

“I talked to coach [James] Franklin. He didn't see it coming,” Fields told reporters on Tuesday. “Having the call with him was one of the hardest calls I've ever had to make.”

It's not hard to figure out what attracted Penn State.

Fields was a complete quarterback. He could do it all.

“Obviously we were involved with him early, had a significant relationship for a long time,” Franklin said.

“Obviously very talented guy. You come up with your list of things that you're looking for in terms of characteristics, height, weight, speed, intelligence, release, accuracy, touchdown-to-interception ratio, win/loss percentage, all the things we look at when we're evaluating and studying quarterbacks. Watching him in games, watching him in practice, throwing live. He checked a lot of boxes.”

It also wasn't hard to figure out



AP file photo

**Quarterback Justin Fields (1)** runs the ball against Indiana on Sept. 14.

why Fields liked Penn State.

The program put itself back on the map with a breakout season and was starting to attract top recruits again.

“I thought I had a great relationship with all of the coaches there. The offense was doing great at the time,” Fields said. “Coach [Joe] Moorehead is a great coach, great offensive-minded coach. I just thought my ability to play and my relationship with the coaches and other commits would eventually help me become a better player.”

The future of Moorehead, who was Penn State's offensive coordinator at the time, was uncertain, as he had head coaching prospects.

He would leave a year later, so who knows if that uncertainty was a big factor in Fields' decision.

But in the end, something just didn't feel right for the young quarterback.

“Before I called coach Franklin, I was nervous, I was like ‘I don't want to do this right now,’” Fields said. “I talked to my dad before and we just felt like it was

the best decision for me because I was blowing up in my recruitment and I didn't want to go that far in terms of leaving home and I wasn't fully committed to the team and to the other commits so I felt bad, talking to other schools.”

Losing a commit is always tough, but when it's someone with the talent of Fields, it makes you wonder if there's something else that needs to be addressed.

Franklin is aware of this and knows what's at stake with these recruits.

“The losses in recruiting are hard to shake. You put so much into them. There's no doubt about it,” Franklin said. “That's where my conversations with the administration about competing for everything because when you lose a recruit, you want to know why. When you find out what those whys are, you want to try to eliminate them as much as you possibly can.”

Fields first went to Georgia to be closer to home, but after a season, he decided to come back to the Big Ten and join the Buckeyes.

“It's magnified when you lose someone, they go somewhere else in the conference, and now you have to compete against that guy for three or four years,” Franklin said.

“Yeah, I guess it's really no different than if he goes anywhere else. It's in your face, it's more obvious.”

Fields is having a really strong season, completing 69.1 percent of his passes for 31 touchdowns and only one interception.

It's hard to think what if Fields was on this Penn State team right now because it still is one of the best in the country.

But with his great play this season, it's easy to see why Franklin wanted Fields as the face of the program.

“Based on what I'm seeing on film right now,” Franklin said. “I think we were right. He's pretty good.”

To email reporter: [dkj5109@psu.edu](mailto:dkj5109@psu.edu).  
Follow him on Twitter at [@DylJacobs](https://twitter.com/DylJacobs).



AP file photo

**Chase Young (2)** rushes the passer against Northwestern Oct. 18.

## OSU's defense is more than just Chase Young

By Caleb Wilfinger  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The last time Ohio State defensive end Chase Young was on the football field, he looked like a frontrunner for the Heisman Trophy.

Young was nearly unblockable throughout the Buckeyes' game against Wisconsin, as he finished with six tackles and sacked Badgers quarterback Jack Coan four times — tying a school record for sacks in a game — including two strip sacks that led to fumble recoveries for Ohio State's defense.

Following that dominant performance, Young was suspended two games for an NCAA rules violation, but the expected First Team All-American will return to the lineup against Penn State on Saturday.

However, while Young receives the bulk of the attention — and understandably so — Ohio State's defense is more than just the contributions it gets from its star edge rusher.

“Obviously Chase Young is as impressive of a player on tape in the country, he jumps off the tape at you,” James Franklin said. “But they have a bunch of guys that you could point out, so it's hard singling out a few guys.”

Young has certainly become a household name, but he is not the only All-Big Ten caliber player on this Buckeye defense.

Ohio State's defense starts with its stout front seven. Young is clearly the headliner, but linebacker Malik Harrison is hot on his heels with 52 total tackles, 4.5 sacks and two fumble recoveries.

“They're a base four down front, and coach [Larry] Johnson does a great job with their defensive line,” Franklin said. “That continues to be the case this year. Their defensive line sets the tone for their whole defense.”

In the secondary, the Buckeyes are anchored by safety Jordan Fuller and cornerback Jeff Okudah. Fuller is second on the team with 45 tackles and two interceptions, while Okudah is one of the leaders in the conference with three interceptions and two forced fumbles.

Under first-year head coach Ryan Day and a bevy of new coaches on the defensive side of the ball, including co-coordinators Jeff Hafley and Greg Mattison, the Buckeyes are clamping down on opponents in a way not seen around Columbus for some time. Ohio State leads the country in virtually every major statistical category on defense. The Buckeyes are tops in the nation in yards allowed (2164), yards per play (3.52), opposing touchdowns (11) and yards per game (216.4).

Opponents are also only converting on just under 27 percent of third downs against Ohio State, as the Buckeyes consistently get teams off the field, and hand the ball back to their explosive offense.

“They're predominantly a middle-of-the-field closed defense this year, and they're going to have a safety in the middle of the field almost all the time, which is somewhat unusual now in college football,” Franklin said. “But they're going to play some variations of cover three, cover one.

Whether it's man pressure or it's zone pressure, they do a really good job of disguising it.”

Part of why Ohio State's defense has been so successful is its ability to limit the explosive plays from opposing offenses.

Ohio State's defense had almost nowhere to go but up in terms of limiting big plays. Last season it ranked 95th in plays allowed of 20 yards or greater.

But in 2019, that statistic has flipped. In fact, the Buckeyes rank in the upper third of the FBS in allowing the fewest plays of 40-plus and 50-plus yards. “They have athletes everywhere on the field [on defense],” tight end Pat Freiermuth said. “Whenever they sub, bring in new personnel, they don't skip a beat. They're fast, explosive. They've definitely got some strength everywhere on the field.”

Saturday's contest against Penn State will be the first time that Ohio State has faced a top-10 team this season.

However, after holding the likes of Cincinnati, Indiana and Wisconsin to a combined 17 points, the Buckeyes defense will hardly be intimidated by Sean Clifford and company on the other side of the ball.

“I know our guys are excited about it, and our coaching staff is excited about it,” Franklin said. “We know that it's going to be a challenge, and we're going to have to go in and play well on the road against a really good ranked opponent.”

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## Parsons

FROM Page 1.

The mental side of adjusting to college football took longer for Parsons to grasp but one piece of advice that Parsons received from Mark Dupuis, a graduate assistant with the Penn State football program, changed Parsons' mindset.

According to Parsons, Dupuis pulled him aside after a practice and told him that he wanted to tell him a story when he had some free time.

Parsons said he kind of blew it off, but after dinner that evening, he returned to the Lasch Building to hear the story.

A decision that Parsons said “changed my perspective on everything.”

Dupuis told Parsons that he is a killer, which confused Parsons at first.

“He said the way you approach things like this is how you are going to change your level of game,” Parsons said. “Thing about a killer, he is sloppy, he might leave some evidence. He is going to get caught, he is going to make some mistakes.”

Dupuis then told Parsons that the next step is being a “serial killer,” but that Parsons should strive to be an “assassin” on the football field.

“An assassin never gets caught,” Parsons said. “You don't even know he is there. He is a perfectionist.”

“If you look at your game the way you look at that he said it will change how you look at things and that just changed me forever.”

Now in his second season at Penn State and leading the team in tackles, Parsons considers himself a “serial killer”, but is always striving to reach that next level.

“I believe there is always something you can learn,” Parsons said. “Even the greats aren't assassins yet. You can become close to an assassin and maybe at one point in the year you can be an assassin. I looked at my game and dang, I really want to be an assassin. I want to be a great player. It changed me.”

And this growth from Parsons is something that the Penn State coaching staff is seeing every day.

“I think fundamentally, he can get a lot better I think in terms of commanding the defense and leadership,” Franklin said. “He can get a lot better. He is nowhere near his ceiling, he really isn't.”

And that is the scary thing about Parsons. Despite leading one of the top defenses in the country in tackles in his second

season at the college level, he isn't near his ceiling.

In fact, most of his teammates don't even know what his ceiling is, including highly touted defensive end and expected top prospect in the April's NFL draft Yetur Gross-Matos.

“The ceiling, I don't know,” Gross-Matos said. “I don't know what that would look like for him.”

“Every day he goes out there, I feel like he surprises me more and more. He's just someone who just keeps growing.”

Parsons is still growing as a person and as an athlete, but the 20-year old already has the self-awareness of what he means to people.

He is aware that he isn't a normal student, a normal linebacker, or a normal Division I football player. He knows what he is capable of and the impact he has on others.

“When we go around and take pictures with the kids, some people when get up to somewhat famous in the people's eye, they don't want to be bothered, they walk away, he's not like that,” Terrence said. “He tries to talk to the kids, tries to make a difference.”

This desire to make a difference was on display following Penn State's loss to Kentucky last season in the Citrus Bowl. Parsons lingered on the field after many of his teammates left, talking with fans, tossing his gloves to kids, showing that football is much more than a game.

“Those people flew all the way out to Florida, those kids look up to me, so I feel like they deserve anything. I'm down to help any kid that needs help or hits me up and wants help,” Parsons said. “I feel like those are the next generation, if they see me do that then they are going to follow in my footsteps and say ‘wow, he really took his time even though he lost to really help me’ or give something to me so them doing that they are going to be more willing to help and give to others too.”

“If you set a positive image and be a good role model in a public setting and in a private setting then I feel like you can be a great person.”

Parsons isn't normal. From the way he carries himself, to his journey to Penn State and his actions on the field, Parsons isn't normal and the legacy he leaves behind, won't be normal either.

“At the end of the day, football doesn't last forever and everyone knows that,” Parsons said. “You want to leave a positive image and show that it is more than just a game.”

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# How five points decided three games

**By Evan Patrick**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A blocked field goal, two improbable last-minute comebacks and just five total points — that’s all that has separated two of the Big Ten’s powerhouses over the last three years.

Penn State versus Ohio State has often been the biggest game in the conference in recent seasons.

The freshmen that were part of the chaotic 2016 game are now seniors, and this game feels like it has had three years of build up.

“We’ve had a lot of competition with these guys, we’ve played them probably as well as anybody over that period of time,” James Franklin said. “Obviously not good enough, we’ve got to take the next step.”

Only one matchup since 2014 has been decided by more than a touchdown and it’s clear that these matchups bring out high quality football in each team.

Even though the Buckeyes hold a 4-1 record in those past five matchups, they know how challenging these games are and how important it is to be at their best for the matchup.

“I feel like it’s an even match, so I guess it comes down to being disciplined,” Ohio State receiver KJ Hill said at Big Ten media days in July.

“The more disciplined team, the team that’s gonna lean on their brother, we lean on our brotherhood, and at the end of the day we have to execute.”

The Nittany Lions have been in the driver’s seat the last two times the teams have met, but failed to hold onto double-digit fourth quarter leads in both games.

“Those have been two of the most notable games I’ve been at, those have been wild games that went all the way to the fourth quarter,” Ohio State head coach Ryan Day said.

“The year before I got [to Ohio State] we lost on the road [at Penn State] and so those are just Big Ten battles against a really good well-coached team and they’re hard, that’s just part of it.”

In 2017, Penn State held a 38-27 lead with just under six minutes remaining in the game, and Ohio State’s J.T. Barrett connected on two touchdown passes with the little time it had to spare.

Last season, the Nittany Lions

led by 12 with under eight minutes to play before Dwayne Haskins threw two touchdown passes in the final seven minutes to stun the Beaver Stadium crowd.

Hill, now a senior wide receiver for the Buckeyes, caught the eventual game-winning touchdown pass.

“Scoring the last touchdown, how loud it was, and then when I scored, nobody was talking, I could hear myself talk,” Hill said. “The whole game you can’t hear yourself talk but it was so quiet you could hear a pencil drop.”

Hill has seen it all when it comes to these past few matchups with Penn State.

As a freshman, Hill was on the sidelines for Grant Haley’s blocked field goal that was returned for a touchdown to give the Nittany Lions the upset victory.

He was the leading receiver in the 2017 comeback against Penn State and played a massive part in last year’s game (2018), a game that he won’t forget for a long time.

“I’d say the Penn State game [was my favorite win], just because of everything we overcame that game, the adversity we hit,” Hill said. “We got punched in the mouth, we threw gloves back and at the end of the day we came out on top. It wasn’t perfect but every time we play them it’s a dog fight.”

The recent matchups between the two have had such important postseason implications that they are often season-defining, and with the way they have played out the winning feeling is that much more special.

“Winning those games meant everything because it really does come down to the final minutes,” Senior defensive end Jonathan Cooper said.

“You look to your left and your right and you look to your brothers and you say, ‘let’s go do this,



Collegian file photo

**Grant Haley (15) and James Clark (82) jump for the ball during Penn State’s win over Ohio State at Beaver Stadium on Oct. 22, 2016.**

it’s on us’ and having that trust and having that feeling in the guy next to you is a feeling like no other.”

That’s the thing about these matchups over the years, even when one team may seem to be the clear favorite, anything could happen — if the past couple of years are any indication, it will likely come down to the wire.

This year, Ohio State has been arguably the best team in the nation, and Penn State was in that conversation prior to its loss at Minnesota.

The Buckeyes are 18 point favorites ahead of Saturday’s matchup, and justifiably so. Chase Young looks like the best

player in college football and the Ohio State passing offense is a nightmare matchup for a Nittany Lions’ secondary that has been torched in the two weeks leading up to the matchup in Columbus.

“Obviously a great challenge going on the road in a venue that holds over 100,000, we obviously know home-field advantage that comes from those types of environments,” Franklin said. “Probably the most talented roster we’ve watched on tape, definitely this year, maybe since we’ve been here. It’s going to be a great challenge.”

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Collegian file photo

**Trace McSorley (9) dives into the endzone to score the fourth touchdown during Penn State’s loss at Ohio State on Oct. 28, 2017.**



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## Crossword

**Across**

1 Very, in music

6 Humor

9 Nintendo headquarters locale

14 Rings

15 Generation

16 Water wheel

17 Giza pyramid locale

18 England's National Space Centre locale

20 Artist Bonheur

21 In a bad way

22 Shock's partner

23 Mil. authority

25 F.B.I. employee

27 One of the Three Stooges

30 Desert feature

32 Born

33 "\_\_\_ that special?!"

35 Box office sign

36 Window covering

38 Proctor's call

39 NASA locale

41 Koryaksky

45 Volcano locale

44 Colossal

46 Jesse of the 1936 Olympics

47 "\_\_\_ show time!"

48 Coin in Cancún

49 Journalist Nellie

50 Symbol of freshness

52 Court ruling?

53 Antique car

54 School of thought

55 Chou En \_\_\_

57 C.E.O.'s degree

59 Machu Picchu locale

63 Nahuel Huapi Lake locale

67 Big Bend National Park locale

68 Solo

69 Hill dweller

70 Mine passages

71 England's Ruins of Kirkstall Abbey locale

72 Classic sports cars

73 Prevent

**Down**

1 Copycat

2 Utah state flower

3 Articulates

4 Llama kin

5 Believer's suffix

6 Water source

7 Urugh Stone Circle locale

8 Clavell's "\_\_\_ Pan"

9 Understood

10 El Capitan locale

11 Uneaten morsel

12 Windsor, for one

13 Paddle

19 Blanchett of "Elizabeth"

21 Hell's Canyon locale

24 Popular computer game

26 Skein formers

28 Egyptian god of the underworld

29 Animosity

30 Move forward

31 Title role for Susan Sarandon

34 Afternoon socials

35 Bandleader Fields

37 Tropical American lizard

40 St. Andrews locale

42 Taj Mahal locale

43 Troop groups, briefly

46 Casper's locale

49 Vivacity

51 Hold back

56 Many moons

58 Off one's trolley

60 Door sign

61 Evaluate

62 Cold war initials

63 Chum

64 Brewed drink

65 Little piggy

66 "China Beach" setting

67 Modicum

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## WORD SEARCH

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**Murder Mysteries**

Allibi  
Amnesia  
Butler  
Clues  
Crime  
Dagger  
Detective  
Disguise  
Evidence  
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Guilt  
Hunch  
Intrigue  
Lies  
Motive  
Mystery  
Plan  
Plot  
Poison  
Red Herring  
Sleuth  
Smoking Gun  
Suspicion  
Victim  
Weapon  
Who Dunit  
Witness

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

## 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.

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# Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

[www.jacquelinebigar.com](http://www.jacquelinebigar.com)

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**SCORPIO** (10/23-11/21) ★★★★★ You have the right words and ideas to clear out a problematic suggestion. You can say no. Behind the scenes, you could become a little wild. Be as subtle as possible if you want to keep this matter hush-hush. Tonight: Be spontaneous, but don't stay up late.

**SAGITTARIUS** (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★ You beam in much more than you thought, especially at work. Others express their confidence in you by adding more work on your plate. Your optimism appears to be contagious. Tonight: Work late if you need to.

**CAPRICORN** (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★ Look at what is going down on a deeper level. You might understand the superficial reason, but what is motivating others could be debatable. Understand your reactions and responses too. Tonight: Watch a movie.

**AQUARIUS** (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ One-on-

one relating proves to be the right path to maximize the opportunities presented. A friend has a strong opinion as to which way would be best. Follow your good sense. Tonight: Listen to a loved one.

**PISCES** (2/19-3/20) ★★★★★ You might want to defer to a partner or someone you trust. Remember that you will have little say about his or her choices. If you do not like this person's choices, choose someone else to defer to in the future. Tonight: Say yes to an invitation.

**ARIES** (3/21-4/19) ★★★★★ You could get overwhelmed if you stop to look at all that you are trying to accomplish. Once you complete your to-do list, celebration is in order. Respond to an invitation from someone at a distance. Tonight: Play it low-key.

**TAURUS** (4/20-5/20) ★★★★★ Where others might flinch and make a sarcastic comment, the moment flows right over you,

perhaps encouraging someone to make a not-so-nice comment. You might feel flattered that you could upset someone to such an extent. Tonight: Out on the town.

**GEMINI** (5/21-6/20) ★★★★★ You might be forced to deal with a family member or a matter around your home and property. Someone is eyeing change. Understand where this person is coming from. Tonight: Make it OK to indulge in a favorite pastime.

**CANCER** (6/21-7/22) ★★★★★ You mean what you say and you say what you mean, especially at the present moment. You are more than willing to see where others are coming from. You could be delighted by another person's emotional display. Tonight: Play through the night.

**LEO** (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★ Your good sense encourages you to use restraint, but will you? You might want to review your finances before taking on any risk. You will

be much happier as a result. Understand where your whimsical desire is stemming from. Tonight: Stick to your budget.

**VIRGO** (8/23-9/22) ★★★★★ You have more going for you than you might be aware of. If a creative venture, child or new friend gives you trouble, let it go. This attitude will serve you well. You are more resilient than you realize. Tonight: Painting the town red.

**LIBRA** (9/23-10/22) ★★★★★ Be willing to continue to take a back seat. Mull over what you are hearing, but do not feel as if you have to decide right now. You might be more optimistic than usual; still, cover your bases. Tonight: Nap and then decide.



# How Russ Rose shaped Steve Aird

By Gianna Galli  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

An accidental stumble into the wrong head coach's office nearly 22 years ago was the beginning of what is now an unbreakable bond between Russ Rose and Indiana head coach Steve Aird.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

It wasn't until the hour-and-a-half conversation spent between the young athlete on the men's volleyball team and Rose that an enduring relationship would be formed.

"It's a relationship that I am very proud of, and I'm grateful to have him in my life for decades," Aird said.

The connection the two share is expressed through passion on a professional level, but it also extends to that of a personal one.

As a head coach of a Division I athletic program, Rose has many connections and relationships, but this one in particular has shaped Aird's career and impacted his life beyond coaching.

Rose has served as a father figure to Aird for some time, and, just like Rose, the Hoosiers coach is a loving husband and father himself who has admired the wise ways of his mentor outside of the sport.

"Whenever I have ever needed anything outside of family, he's been the North Star and he cares about everyone like this but I have been lucky, I have been very lucky to have him in my life," Aird said.

Rose doesn't take the impact he's had on Aird's life for granted. "I don't ever want to replace anybody's father," Rose said. "That's not the point, but part of coaching is listening and helping and sometimes just listening is helping and with Steve I will always listen."

Aird's time at Penn State was spent in many forms, beginning with his years on the men's team from 1997-2001 as a two-year captain, with only the familiarity of Rose.

It wasn't until Aird's time as an assistant coach at Cincinnati came to an end that Rose saw



Carter Waldron/Courtesy of Indiana Athletics

Indiana coach Steve Aird during the game between Northwestern and the Hoosiers on Sept. 21, 2018.

the highly passionate player's abilities as a coach. It was then that Rose extended an offer to Aird to join him on the coaching staff at Penn State in 2007.

"I have always admired how committed he was to his par- ents and Penn State, but when we worked on staff together he was really ahead of the curve on whatever the technology was such as dealing with promotions," Rose said. "He was especially better than me."

The two-time NCAA champion assistant coach left an impact on Penn State's program as he not only helped the Nittany Lions garner two NCAA titles in both 2007 and 2013, along with a Final Four berth in 2012.

During his time with the Nittany Lions, Aird demonstrated how valuable Penn State was to him. "It's my second home," Aird said.

Aird's time spent on staff was spent not only following

in Rose's footsteps and learning from the longtime coach, but also Aird himself became known as an "elite recruiter" and even picked out some of Penn State's modern talent including one of this year's seniors in middle blocker Tori Gorrell.

"He's a really upbeat and enthusiastic, positive guy who is incredibly loyal to Penn State," Rose said.

"He was always committed to doing the right thing and mentoring the younger players and going out of his way to help the guys who were in need of help. He became a great leader here."

Aird measures his success in life with the opportunities Rose has blessed him with and this binding connection the two have formed.

"I am blessed everyday that I can look back and know that I have people who love me and

care about me here and know it's mutual," Aird said.

"This school was the defining moment in my life, when I decided to come from Toronto to play for Penn State, was the decision that has made me who I am today."

Still strong and indestructible, the relationship has transformed over the years, however, in ways that both Aird and Rose are grateful for.

"When you work on staff here it's very demanding and so the level of excellence and what you have to produce is really really high so it's hard at times because he has to be your boss compared to your friend," Aird said. "Which is very understandable but the flip is that when your working on a staff where there is so much pressure and intensity to, it becomes a little bit easier."

The assistant coaching position Aird held at Penn State has a special place in his heart next to the head coaching positions he's had since, at Maryland and Indiana.

"We are at the beginning right now of a journey to build a program at Indiana, but I was lucky to have been apart of a family, players, staff and people

who have been here for years that are pretty darn special," Aird said.

The Penn State tradition that Aird has been a part of will never be forgotten and has had more of an impact on each new coaching opportunity he has taken on since 2014, just the way he imagined.

"I'm walking downtown today and I'm going to buy grilled stickies for my wife and babies and going to the cheese shop to buy coffee and it reminds me that I'm always fortunate to be in a college town that is awesome and very similar to State College," Aird said.

Aird's first time back in Rec Hall was in a match last season between Indiana and Penn State, and once again on Nov. 8 this season.

And yes, after the match, he made a stop into Rose's office — this time on purpose.

"I have been really lucky to go all over the world, play and coach in Final Fours and become a head coach in the Big Ten because of what Russ Rose, and Penn State, gave me," Aird said.

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