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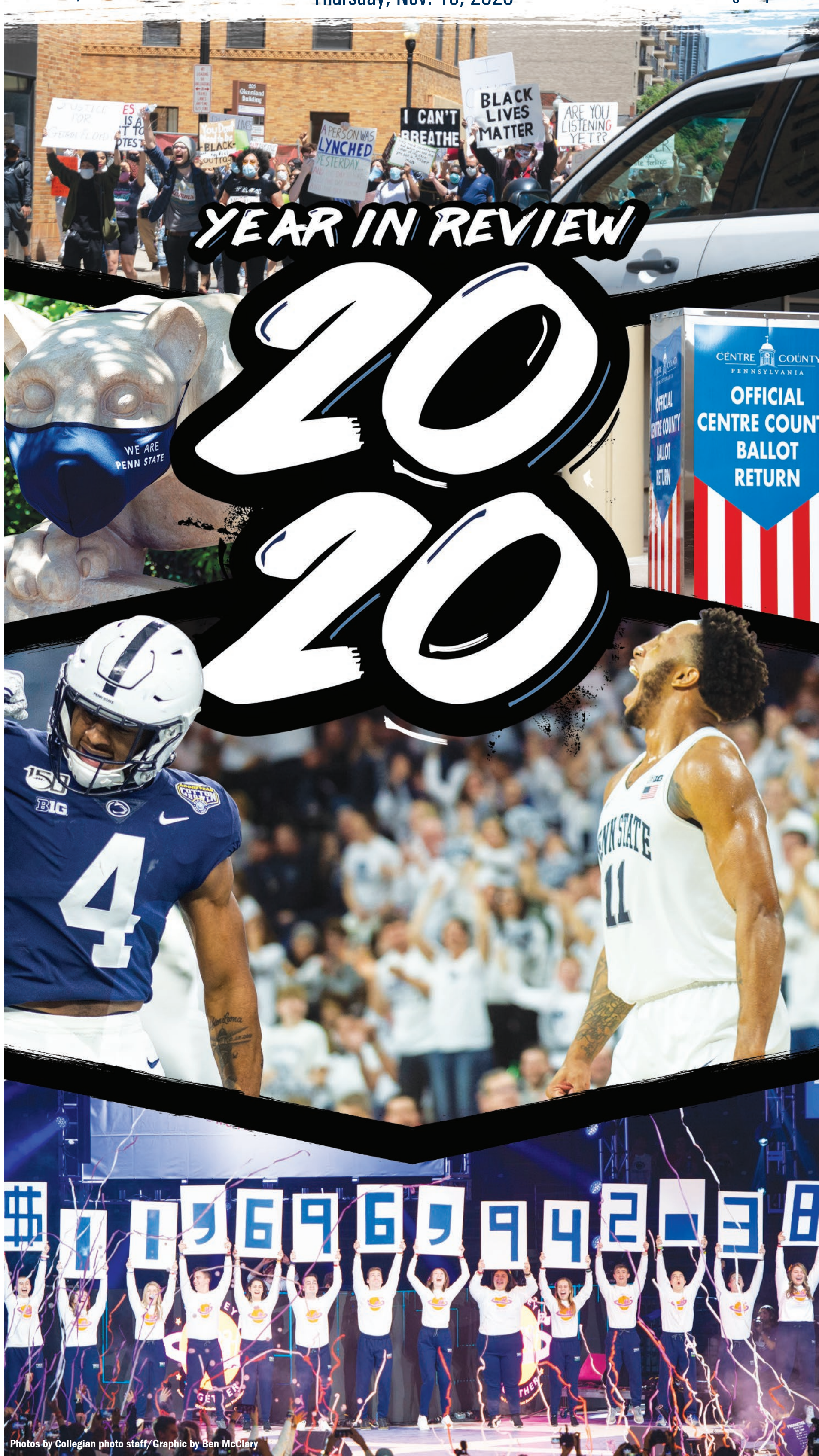
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How 2020 started vs. how it’s going

By Megan Swift
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Jan. 1, hopefuls around the world rang in the new year with an emphasis not only on a fresh start, but a new decade. However, “new year, new me” workouts, self-improvement regimens and other resolutions were soon crushed in March by the coronavirus pandemic.

While 2020 seemed to work out in exactly the opposite way than was expected, many were able to find moments of light to joke about — not in person, but on-line. Here’s a list of the funniest memes of 2020 — including the year itself.

How it started

Penn State students returned to classes in January, while the online aftermath of the blockbuster hit of 2019 — Tom Hooper’s “Cats” — was still rampant. Taylor Swift, James Corden, Judi Dench, Jason Derulo and Rebel Wilson’s performance as cats who wore no real clothes was unforgettable, it seemed.

Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness

The one-season documentary, featuring popular characters Joe Exotic and Carole Baskin, was released in March, shortly after mandatory quarantine began.

Even though Joe Exotic is currently serving a 22-year sentence in prison, many took to the internet to express their thoughts on the hit Netflix series.

A “Carole Baskin Challenge” to the song Savage even became prominent on TikTok.

Taco Bell vigil

Right before spring break and after the sudden close of Taco Bell on College Avenue, Penn State students planned a vigil to mourn the loss of the chain on March 1.

The vigil — complete with candles and speeches — elicited a slew of social media posts to honor the passing of the quintessential State College nightlife hotspot, and even gained national media traction on ESPN.

To this day, the dumpster behind the newly installed Yallah Taco reads “Taco Bell Only” in spray-painted lettering.

Quarantine and isolation

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, quarantine and or



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

When Penn State students discovered the downtown State College Taco Bell was closing, a vigil was held in its honor — creating one of the most memorable moments of the semester.

isolation — or what some choose to refer to as “eternal March” — began ironically for Penn Staters around March 15 — what is known in the Roman calendar as the Ides of March.

“Beware the Ides of March,” Shakespeare wrote as the soothsayer’s warning in his play Julius Caesar.

Out of this time period came not only memes about going crazy and tweets dramatically crying for help, but reply posts to “choose your quarantine house,” which featured many celebrities and other public figures.

Additionally, “The 2020 Challenge” or the “Reese Witherspoon Challenge” came to fruition, which featured a photo collage of faces representing the different months of 2020.

On Instagram, accounts sporting photos of “What ____ are you?” dominated users’ stories on the app. Some of the popular accounts included frogs, horses, Mamma Mia characters and chickens.

Oh, and “Happy Covid-19th” to those born in 2001.

Toilet paper

With the onset of the pandemic came the “panic-buying” of toilet paper and other everyday necessities. No longer were students worrying about which date to

choose for Frat Formal Friday or whether or not they could slide by with a B+ if they skipped 9 a.m. class.

Life became real, unironically. This tragically led to a toilet paper shortage and many satirical images online featuring the completely barren grocery store aisles.

Zoom University

This one’s a classic — college students around the globe took to the internet to express their mild dislike for online classes, which — by the way — include a substantial lack of social interaction. Who knew that a platform so unrecognizable would shoot to the top of stock charts in a mere three months?

Let’s not forget the Zoom University merchandise, including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, stickers and more. The logo includes a laptop in the center with the words “Est. 2020” under “Zoom U.”

TikTok

Summer 2020 wouldn’t have been complete without TikTok challenges and trends. From the WAP dance challenge to “before and afters,” app users were able to stay occupied during the “unprecedented times” of the pandemic.

Penn State’s campus bear

When it seemed 2020 couldn’t get any crazier, students were warned by an automated university alert to beware of a black bear roaming around campus in September and to stay indoors.

While the black bear threat was quickly eliminated, students shared photos and videos online of the incident.

Among Us

There’s one imposter among us.

The online multiplayer social deduction game, which takes place in a space-themed setting, became popular over quarantine, but is still very popular.

Memes featuring the virtual characters are still widely shared on social media, and were even used during the 2020 presidential election.

“Orange is sus. Vote him out,” was a common meme tagline — referencing President Donald Trump — that was sold on T-shirts and yard signs during the election.

The 2020 election fly

The fly that landed on Vice President Mike Pence’s head was arguably the most

memorable part of the 2020 presidential debates.

President-elect Joe Biden posted a tweet after the debate that said, “Pitch in \$5 to help this campaign fly.”

The election fly was trending on social media, and many even bought “Joe Biden fly swatters,” which ended up selling out.

Nittany Lion football

Penn State football is currently 0-4 for the 2020 season, which has become a meme itself. This has elicited numerous social media outcries to fire head coach James Franklin and bench quarterback Sean Clifford.

Perhaps this can be attributed to the lack of fans in the stadium or to the cardboard-cutout fans, which cost between \$65 and \$85 a pop.

How it’s going

Let’s unpack that. 2020 has been a year of turmoil, loss and fear, which is why it’s okay to feel overwhelmed.

However, as we continue into the “roaring 20s” and winter break, let’s remember the funny moments that made us smile, too.

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Coronavirus pandemic defines 2020

By James Engel
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The coronavirus pandemic originated in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 and began spreading around the United States in early 2020. The virus has not only infected over 56 million people around the world, but has upended society with the implementation of strict guidelines, such as masking and social distancing.

On Jan. 20, the first case of coronavirus in the United States was confirmed in the state of Washington. Ten days later, the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency.

By Feb. 29, the first coronavirus death in America was confirmed. Less than a month later, the virus could be found in all 50 states.

As of midnight on Nov. 18, 1,338,106 people have died from coronavirus worldwide. 248,672 of those deaths occurred in the United States, with 9,346 in Pennsylvania and 24 in Centre County.

One death was 21-year-old Penn State student Juan Garcia, who died of respiratory failure in July after returning home to Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Turkmenistan, North Korea and various Pacific island nations remain the only countries to not internationally report any cases to date.

Conor Miller said he remembers the initial wave of confusion and surprise when the coronavirus began rapidly spreading in March.

“I thought it was just going to blow over. I didn’t think it was actually going to turn into what it turned into,” Miller (freshman-cybersecurity) said. “When they canceled our senior year [of high school] last year, that’s when it really set in.”

By late March, Penn State and many other universities suspended in-person classes for the rest of the spring semester, opting instead for virtual learning.

Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers said the university has continually collaborated with government and health professionals when making its decisions about safety.

“From the outset, the health and safety of our University community, as well as the broader communities across the state in which Penn State plays a key role, were identified as priorities in any decisions made,” Powers said via email.

By the beginning of summer, all but a few states were enduring variations of stay-at-home orders and business shutdowns. Mask mandates also quickly emerged and are still largely present across the country.

These lockdowns led to an enormous downturn in American economic growth, especially in the realm of small businesses. According to a Yelp Local Economic Impact report published in September, more than 100,000 U.S. small businesses were forced to permanently close during the pandemic.

According to Pew Research Center, unemployment rates reached as high as 14.4% in April, as workers were laid off or furloughed by businesses forced into shutdowns. Unemployment rates decreased to 6.9% by October.

The 2020 financial crisis was the fastest stock market drop in history, but the Dow Jones Industrial Average began to rise again after lockdowns generally began to ease in May.

Just like economics, voting in the 2020 presidential election was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Michael Berkman, a professor of political science and director of the McCourtney Institute of Democracy at Penn State, said the coronavirus pandemic became “the defining issue” of the 2020 election.

“When you have an incumbent, you’re going to have a referendum on the incumbent’s performance,” Berkman said. “In this case it was about the economy, but the economy because of

COVID and how COVID was dealt with.”

A record number of voters opted for mail-in ballots in 2020, fearing long lines and potential coronavirus infection. These ballots played a key role in the election of Democratic candidate Joe Biden as the 46th president-elect

over Republican incumbent President Donald Trump.

Berkman believes mail-in ballots will remain a common method of voting, but fears some suspicions surrounding their validity could affect future elections.

“I have this sneaking feeling that every election now, we’re going to hear about things like [voter fraud] more and more,” Berkman said. “That, to me, makes the Electoral College more problematic than it ever was, and is going to make elections, which are the core of democracy, untrusted by many people moving forward. That’s



James Ricardo/Collegian

The coronavirus has taken over many facets of people’s lives, including classes and the 2020 presidential election since March.

2020: Black Lives Matter’s impact

By Mar cayla Connell
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From 2013 to 2020, Black Lives Matter has grown from a grass-roots effort to a massive international socio-political movement.

DeAndre Malcolm, public relations chair for Penn State’s chapter of the NAACP and Black Caucus, said the movement garnered more attention and support over the years because of the examples of racial injustice and police violence against Black people within the United States and globally.

“[Trayvon Martin’s death] wasn’t even the first injustice experienced by the Black community,” Malcolm (junior-public relations) said. “It was just the breaking point.”

This summer, the death of George Floyd — an unarmed Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer kneeled on his neck — led to mass outrage and frustration. His encounter with police and resulting death was recorded by passersby, which was shared on social media and news outlets.

Around the same time, the death of Breonna Taylor — a Black woman who was shot and killed by Louisville police officers in her home in March — was being widely discussed as well.

“Every instance where a Black person is killed brings attention to the movement,” Malcolm said. “It’s unfortunate to say, [but] every- time there’s a George Floyd or Breonna Taylor we come together as a community and have our voices be heard.”

Monet Smith, political action chair for Penn State’s Black Caucus, said what made this summer different than any other for the Black Lives Matter movement is that the coronavirus pandemic created an environment where most people had no choice but to listen and get involved.

“Now is different than before because there aren’t that many excuses. You can’t say ‘I would go to this protest, but I have work’ or [you] didn’t know what was happening because it’s all over the news,” Smith (junior-criminology) said. “Video and social media makes things so accessible and [allows people to become more engaged and aware].”

Smith said a big portion of the



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

Numerous Black Lives Matter protests took place in State College and across the U.S. this summer.

protests happened during “the peak of quarantine,” when people had time to be present on social media.

Malcolm stressed the severity of police brutality and systemic racism in the U.S. by stating that even in a pandemic, millions felt the need to protest the racism and violence their community is experiencing.

“In the COVID-19 pandemic and [ongoing] pandemic of racism, the Black community — which is already facing health disparities — risked our lives and felt the need to go out and protest because the injustice is ridiculous,” Malcolm said.

Smith said what also makes things frustrating for her is that the Black Lives Matter movement has become a partisan issue.

“[People] are looking at a video and seeing murder. Regardless of what your political [affiliation] is, you should have basic human empathy to say right is right and that’s wrong. You cannot deny basic humanity and morality. [Black Lives Matter] is a basic call to morals,” Smith said.

Smith believes the Black Lives Matter movement is just a modern day civil rights movement with a different title.

“[All we are saying] is that society isn’t just, and society acts in a way in which minority lives and people of color do not matter, which is essentially the same thing they were saying then,” Smith said.

Social media was one of the main ways the social movement gained more traction. Starting as a hashtag, many used #BlackLivesMatter to organize protests, share incidents of police violence and offer support for the movement.

Malcolm said videos of Black people being killed by police officers and videos of protests being shared on social media have changed people’s perspectives about the movement.

“It makes them pay attention and ask, ‘Why is this happening?’ It makes them listen,” Malcolm said. “It’s laughable, but why weren’t they listening before? Why did it have to get to this point for them to listen?”

Malcolm and Smith said people are frustrated after demanding systemic change and not seeing it, which is why the movement has continued.

“Black people are being heard, but not being listened to,” Malcolm said. “Institutions are continuing to do performative actions like [hanging] posters and [Instagram] hashtags, but not real action or implementing policy to dismantle the oppressive racist systems

Rhoda Nanre Nafziger, co-leader of the 3/20 Coalition — an advocacy group created after the death of Osaze Osagie in State College — said “movements come in waves.”

“[The Black Lives Matter movement] didn’t catch on until 2014 in Ferguson. In this current

iteration in 2020, we are [witnessing] some of the largest protests in U.S. history,” Nafziger said. “It’s a combination of people being home because of COVID-19 and the accessibility of video. Black people are [murdered] all the time by police. The murder of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor got people talking. It’s become a global movement.”

Nafziger said the coalition seeks to gain justice for Osagie — a 29-year-old Black State College resident who was fatally shot by a State College police officer serving a mental health warrant in March 2019, after the officer unsuccessfully deployed a Taser on him — and to ensure that it never happens again.

The 3/20 Coalition addresses intersectional issues within the Black Lives Matter movement, ensuring that Black women, the mentally and physically disabled, and LGBTQ individuals’ experiences are heard, she said.

“We see ourselves as part of the larger Black Lives Matter movement,” Nafziger said. “And we see the systemic injustices [endured by] Black men and women.”

Nafziger believes this is a “significant” moment in history, because universities and companies are starting to listen and take action in ways they never have before.

“[These protests] helped the 3/20 Coalition,” Nafziger said. “The State College Borough Council passed a resolution approving eight out of 10 of our

demands in a matter of days, whereas we had been advocating and protesting for months.”

Nafziger said a primary reason these protests continue to occur is because the police and justice systems are not held accountable for violence against their own Black and brown citizens.

“If we continue to see police can kill with impunity, Black lives will continue to not matter,” she said.

The New York Times reported that half a million people attended protests on June 6 in almost 550 places across the United States in a single day. Many of these protests continued for over a month.

“Many could argue that [the Black Lives Matter movement] is one of the biggest civil rights movements ever,” Smith said.

Nafziger and Malcolm said the movement has been perceived as controversial by some people because it challenges power dynamics in America and makes people uncomfortable.

“I think any movement to restore the dignity and humanity of Black people is seen as controversial,” Nafziger said.

Malcolm said people see the movement as “divisive.”

“If Black lives begin to matter, then white lives won’t contain that power, and I think some people don’t want to relinquish the power they have over society,” Malcolm said. “Black Lives Matter is so much more than a flyer or banner you see in the HUB — it’s life or death for many people. And I think because many people don’t live it, they don’t understand, and it’s hard to unlearn what they’ve been taught since they were born.”

Malcolm believes that certain comments made by President Donald Trump have not helped with the public’s perception of the movement.

“Statements the president has made imply that Black people don’t matter,” Malcolm said. “His rhetoric kind of goes against everything BLM stands for. He called [Black Lives Matter] protesters ‘thugs’ and white nationalists ‘good people.’

“We’re just trying to get ahead in life and they see us as a threat.”

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Collegian editors share 2020 takeaways

OUR VIEW

As the year comes to a close, our Board of Editors reflects on a historic year.

As an unprecedented fall semester nears its end, so does 2020 — a year of unpredictable twists and turns that left much of the world hurting, not excluding college students.

Just in State College, students have witnessed the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic while abiding to new regulations, have protested in solidarity with movements around the nation, and have taken part in an ever-changing political atmosphere — all while taking notes and studying for exams.

The Daily Collegian's Board of Editors has taken time to reflect on the chaos of this year, including the good, the bad and the overall takeaways. Read below:

Maddie Aiken, Editor-in-Chief

"I think this has been the hardest year of my life, which might sound silly to say at the young age of 21. But in the moments of immense sadness, anxiety, foolishness or stress, I have grown much closer to God — which I think also makes this the best year of my life."

Lindsey Toomer, Managing Editor

"We all know 2020 has sucked for a lot of us, but I have tried my best to use it as an opportunity to better myself — though how successful I've been is questionable. The year is not

quite over yet, so I think the best way to end it is to focus on what we're grateful for and what will make next year better."

Shane Connelly, Digital Managing Editor

"At the risk of sounding cliché, I learned the value of controlling my emotions. It's natural to get upset about things, and I know that will always be a part of life. But in the face of adversity, I feel good about my ability to think and remain composed much more than I was able to at the start of this year."

Erin Hogge, News Editor

"Although it hasn't been conventional, 2020 has been a wonderful year of growth for me. I've spent time reflecting on my aspirations during isolation, which has been much needed and has opened my eyes to potential opportunities."

Megan Swift, Assistant News Editor

"My biggest takeaway from 2020, though this might be cheesy, is that life is way too short. I've spent the better part of my life making lists like 'Big Dreams' to 'DO THIS NOW.' The 'Big Dreams'

list has always seemed far away, but now, in 2020, it is so close. There really is never a better time like the present, so why wait?"

Jake Aferiat, Sports Editor

"My biggest takeaway would be just to have perspective. It's been helpful for me to realize that no matter how bored I might get, there's a greater good at stake. I'm also lucky that I can afford to stay inside and follow the medical advice of experts and we're not struggling economically."

Gianna Galli, Assistant Sports Editor

"Learning that there is more to the world than just a small individual issue I might be going through as a college student in the middle of my junior fall semester has been an important lesson and a change in mentality for me this year. Taking each day as it comes, because you truly never knew what the next day will bring this year. To focus on those who are focusing on you and want to see what's best for you happen."

Benjamin Ferree, Football Editor

"My biggest takeaway

from 2020 is to always appreciate the good moments. This is obviously not how I expected my senior year of college to go, and everyone has made sacrifices to live in this world. This doesn't mean you can't savor the good moments."

Becky Marcinko, Lifestyle Editor

"My biggest takeaways from 2020 are learning how no amount of 'success' is more important than my mental and physical well-being. 2020 showed nothing is guaranteed, and life ultimately isn't that deep — so we may as well have fun."

Jade Campos, Assistant Lifestyle Editor

"2020 has really changed my perspective on how I see myself and the people around me. I've become a lot more resilient — understanding that there are bigger things out there to worry about — and more affirmed in my beliefs as well as the people I want to have around me."

Grace Miller, Opinion Editor

"This has been an interesting year to say the least, and I can't say I'm

sad that it's ending. But as I've watched so many people hurt, I'm reminded of the human condition. I find comfort in the fact that we are all living this experience collectively, and as we learn and cope individually, we learn and cope as a community."

Lily LaRegina, Photo Editor

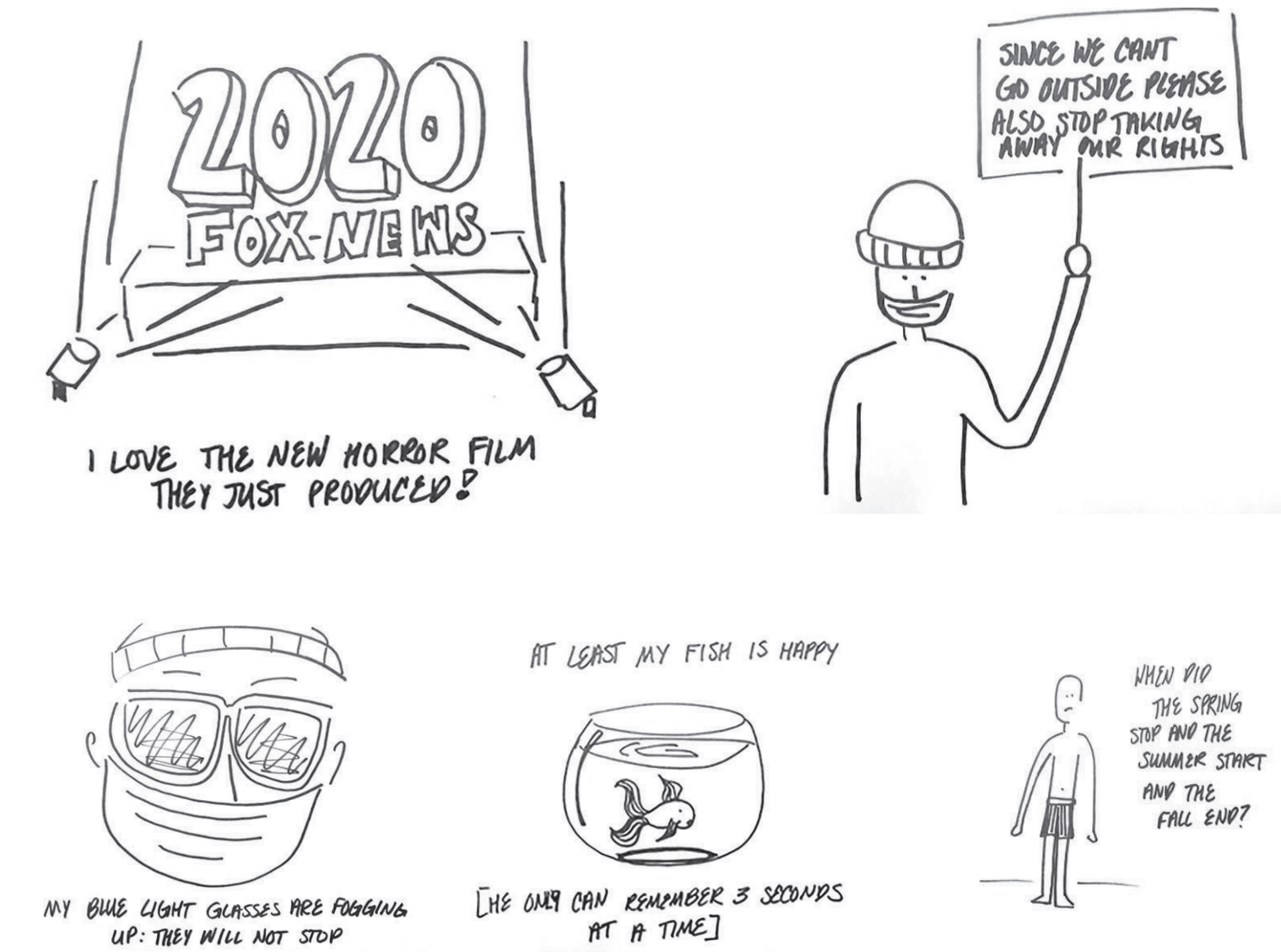
"One takeaway [of this year] has been that support networks are crucial. No one has had an easy year, and everyone needs to have someone else looking out for them and checking in. Another takeaway is that there are things that are better in American society today than in the past, but more change is needed. Further, all voter voices should be valued and counted."

Jessica Cook, Multimedia Editor

"2020 is definitely not my favorite year. However, I learned a lot about myself. This year taught me to take care of myself and to enjoy life. This was the time for me to really reflect on who I am as a person."

Ben McClary, Assistant Multimedia Editor

"This year has pushed me to be creative, whether the motivation was there or not. I feel like I have grown up, and I am leaving 2020 grateful for what I have, while hopeful that next year will be better for everyone."



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About the Collegian

The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and profes-

sionals. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them during the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday and Thursday.

Complaints

News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

Highs and lows for PSU athletics

By Alexis Yoder
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State, like every school across the country, has had to deal with the impact of the coronavirus on its athletic department.

But there have been scenarios and situations that have been unique to the central Pennsylvania school over the last year.

Here's a look at some of the biggest storylines and moments from 2020.

Men's basketball misses out on NCAA Tournament

Penn State men's basketball was poised to make its first NCAA Tournament berth under Pat Chambers and its first berth overall since 2011 before the coronavirus pandemic led to the cancellation of the NCAA Tournament.

The Nittany Lions finished the year 21-10, notching 20 wins for the second time in three seasons. Penn State also entered the AP Poll during Week 6 of the season, the first time the Nittany Lions were ranked since 1996.

They stayed in the poll until Week 16 of the season.

By the Nittany Lions missing the tournament, Lamar Stevens fell short of breaking Penn State's scoring record.

NCAA announces eligibility changes



Collegian file photo

Pat Chambers motivates his team against Minnesota in the Big Ten Tournament on March 14, 2019. Chambers resigned on Oct. 21 amid an internal investigation stemming from comments directed at Rasir Bolton.

The Division I council of the NCAA made multiple changes to eligibility rules amid the outbreak of the coronavirus, forcing the cancellation and postponement of multiple sports seasons.

In a statement released by the NCAA in March, student-athletes competing in spring sports were granted an extra year of eligibility amid the mid-season cancellation.

The NCAA granted fall student-athletes an extra year of eligibility, according to a late August statement, amid the postponement of competition by several conferences, including the Big Ten.

Student-athletes competing in a winter sport for the 2020-21 season were also granted another year of eligibility, per a statement released by the NCAA in mid-October.

2020 fall sports moved to spring

In a statement released in August, the Big Ten conference announced the postponement of all fall sports competition for the 2020-21 season, citing concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic.

The conference said it would continue to evaluate options for playing the fall sports season in the spring, as well as continually evaluating protocols and situations regarding not only the fall sports season, but also the

winter and spring seasons.

Big Ten cancels football season

Conference presidents decided to postpone the 2020 football season during a meeting in August amid coronavirus concerns, making the Big Ten the first Power Five conference to do so.

Following the conference's decision, as well as similar ones made by other Power Five conferences, football student-athletes and coaches launched the #WeWantToPlay movement, pushing back against the decision to postpone the season.

Big Ten reinstates football season

The Big Ten conference released a statement in September announcing it would hold a football season in 2020, despite the cancellation of all other fall sports.

The Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors voted unanimously to sponsor a fall football season, while also adopting stringent medical protocols to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus.

Micah Parsons opts out, Pat Freiermuth stays

Amid a questionable future for college football due to the coronavirus pandemic, linebacker Micah Parsons announced in August that he would not play for Penn State in 2020, ending his tenure with the team.

In a video statement, the junior All-American cited health concerns for his family and preparations for the NFL draft as reasons for his decision.

While Parsons decided not to make a return, Pat Freiermuth confirmed he would play in 2020, despite rumors of an opt out.

The junior tight end confirmed that he would represent the blue and white during a conference call alongside coach James Franklin.

Even amid Penn State's struggles this season, Freiermuth has affirmed his commitment to the Nittany Lions.

Pat Chambers resigns amid investigation

Men's basketball coach Pat Chambers resigned Oct. 21 amid



Collegian file photo

Linebacker Micah Parsons celebrates a tackle during the 2019 Cotton Bowl Classic against No. 17 Memphis at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

an internal investigation prompted by an article that came out July 6, which chronicled comments from the former coach that were directed at former Nittany Lion Rasir Bolton, in which Chambers made reference to a "noose" around Bolton's neck.

Although Chambers apologized for comments made toward Bolton after the article's release, the findings of the internal investigation by university officials led to Chambers' resignation.

Jim Ferry, former Penn State assistant coach and former LIU and Duquesne head coach, took over as interim head coach following Chambers' resignation.

Journey Brown announces medical retirement

Penn State football coach James Franklin announced in November that running back Journey Brown can no longer play football due to a medical condition.

Brown released a statement following the press conference at which Franklin made the announcement regarding the redshirt junior's condition, saying he had been diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a disease in which the heart muscle becomes abnormally thick.

The disease was found during a coronavirus screening Brown received.

During his redshirt sophomore and final season as a Nittany Lion, Brown ran for 890 yards on 129 carries, rushed for a

conference 12 touchdowns.

He turned heads following Penn State's 53-39 win over Memphis in the Cotton Bowl, a game where Brown rushed for a career-high 202 yards.

Wrestling crowns two Big Ten champions

Penn State wrestling finished with a Big Ten record of 8-1 and fourth in the Big Ten tournament, where two Nittany Lions won their respective weight classes.

Mark Hall and Aaron Brooks claimed Big Ten titles at 174 and 184 pounds respectively, while Brooks was named Big Ten Freshman of the Year.

It was the third Big Ten title for Hall and the first for Brooks, who became the first true freshman in team history to win a Big Ten title.

Freiermuth breaks program record

The first touchdown of the 2020 season for Penn State, caught by Pat Freiermuth, gave the junior tight end sole possession of a program record.

After catching his 16th career touchdown reception during the Nittany Lions' first game at Indiana, Freiermuth broke the tie he had with former Penn State and current Miami Dolphins tight end Mike Gesicki for the program record for touchdowns by a tight end.

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For one team, pandemic hit especially close to home

By Gianna Galli
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Coach Mark Pavlik was preparing Penn State for its 22nd game of the 2020 season and the 1,091st

of his career, when suddenly All-American Brett Wildman sensed things

clicked.

"We were just practicing to play Irvine, the NBA had canceled its season and in the back of our minds, we thought we are definitely next," Wildman told The Daily Collegian. "Pav called over Jason [Donorovich] to the side, and the rest of the practice [Donorovich] just looked out of it, and that's when I knew. Once he told the whole team, it was heart-breaking."

Canceled, canceled, canceled... The rest of the 2020 schedule read nine times starting on March 13, as the coronavirus began to spread and sports shut down worldwide.

"What do you do? Where do you go? It was uncharted waters for all of us," Pavlik told the Collegian. "But it became the new normal."

Pavlik was foreshadowing several months to come.

The 2008 AVCA National Coach of the Year, his 20 players and the rest of the coaching staff were all instantly separated from a volleyball court and began months of quarantining, which was not originally featured on the season's agenda.

But a canceled season with a few unfinished careers was the smallest impact a worldwide pandemic had on this Penn State team.

"He's [Pavlik] one of the most charismatic and optimistic people I have ever met, and those are two of the greatest qualities you can have during a time right now."

Brett Wildman
Men's volleyball All-American



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

Coach Mark Pavlik looks on during the men's volleyball game against George Mason at Rec Hall on April 6, 2019. Pavlik's brother-in-law died from the coronavirus and his team had an outbreak.

The early months of the pandemic erased an 11-8 season for Penn State and reached the highest level of impact on Pavlik and the loved ones surrounding him.

On March 20, at age 64, Mark Rumutis, Chief of Police of Ambrich, Pennsylvania, tested positive, showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

He died almost a month later on April 12.

Rumutis was Pavlik's brother-in-law. "My entire career, I have preached to them: be good teammates, take care of each other, welcome with open arms," Pavlik said. "With that message and knowledge first hand of how dangerous this virus could

be, in a time like this, it's not so much about doing things for yourself, but it's about doing things for

those that are at a higher risk than you."

The message wasn't delivered in person given the team was separated, but it was felt, at least to Wildman.

"Pav wasn't that vocal about [the death of his brother-in-law] and kept it within a family standpoint, but he's one of the most charismatic and optimistic people I've ever met, and those are two of the greatest qualities you can have during a time right now," Wildman said.

But as a human being who makes it known how much he cares for his players, Pavlik rose to be there for his team amid the unknown.

"It's hard to see where this is going in the future, and putting in all this work when we don't know if we are going to have a season, Pav is still him and reminds us, 'We are going to have a season and this schedule is a possibility,'" Wildman said. "He's trying to think best case scenario, but he

also is realistic."

On July 23, Penn State Athletics reported its first positive coronavirus case among its student-athletes.

Now, as of Nov. 18, there have been a total of 188 positive cases out of 15,102 tests performed on student-athletes.

In July and August, Penn State men's volleyball was adjusting to new schooling regulations, while experiencing some form of athletic preparation for a potential season.

But even the smallest sense of normalcy wasn't around for long.

Shortly after, in the months to come, a "decent" amount of Penn State men's volleyball players were a part of the 188 positive cases, according to an announcement made in November by Pavlik "that members on the team had contracted the virus at some point in the fall."

Wildman, a former EIVA Player of the Year and honorable mention All-American, was one

of them. "No one in my family had it, so it was weird to be the first person to have it," Wildman said. "With a decent amount of guys getting it on the team, it was a realization that we all really love volleyball and the only reason we aren't playing is because of ourselves."

Pavlik explained it was a challenging time for his team, though

"It was a wakeup call for our guys, and for me personally it was 'OK, I'm going to make sure I can do whatever for the guys who are affected and for them to stay healthy,' and fortunately, they all had mild symptoms," Pavlik said.

Wildman and his teammates never got discouraged, nor did they lose focus.

"We never got super hard pressed," Wildman said. "In the beginning, there was a period where it seemed like a lot of stuff in my life hit me all at once, but then I realized a couple different things and I was back to the grind."

He explained that those on the team, along with staff members who tested negative, continued to test negative, and "there hasn't been a case since."

"When the positives were cleared to go again, we were put in groups and a round a month and a half ago we got released to full team practices, full lifts for the past month and a half," Wildman said.

After student-athletes test positive, Penn State Athletics issues a 14-day isolation period before undergoing additional tests and resuming organized activities — something handled well by the program according to Wildman.

"The biggest thing that hit us was the sheer amount of people that wanted to help us," Wildman said. "From the standpoint of the Penn State staff, it was never 'How did you guys get this.' It was always more a mindset of first and foremost 'We care about your health.'"

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Students weigh in on pop culture phases of quarantine

By Jade Campos and Becky Marcinko
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As the world slipped into a shutdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, people turned to social media for entertainment. Many people, including Penn State students, believe the year has been defined in “phases” — such as “Tiger King,” TikTok and whipped coffee.

Although TikTok was created before the pandemic began, many students said it was a defining aspect of their quarantine.

Student Jamie Skreptach said TikTok trends that defined different “phases” of pop culture during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 seemed to change almost weekly.

“What ever video was popular — that’s what everybody would do at the time,” Skreptach said.

Skreptach said she thinks TikTok influenced a lot of these pop culture “phases” throughout the year.

“I did try the whipped coffee — but it didn’t work out for me,” Skreptach (senior-forensic science) said.

Skreptach said she didn’t watch any of the popular shows that were also TikTok trends — like “Tiger King.”

“I watch crime shows. That’s really all I watch,” Skreptach said.

Samantha Bryn said she tried to stay away from TikTok after weeks of begging from her friends to download the app.

When quarantine hit, though, Bryn (freshman-wildlife and fishery sciences) said she had no other choice but to download the app.

“I was very adamant about lowering my screen time and not downloading another social media app, and then quarantine hit,” Bryn said. “I said ‘you know what? I have the free time, so I might as well.’ And now I’m addicted.”

Like Skreptach, Bryn joined in on many trends she discovered through social media including indulging in “Tiger King,” whipped coffee and redecorating her room.

However, Jeannie Milmerstadt said she didn’t personally take part in any of these pop culture phases, but “read up” about different trends.

“I’m not a big TV show or movie watcher,” Milmerstadt (freshman-computer science) said. “I do watch a lot of ‘Friends.’”

Milmerstadt said there was an evolution of pop culture phases throughout the year “to keep people occupied.” She said she thinks this includes “challenges” and TikTok dances.

“I’m not one to [do any TikTok dances],” Milmerstadt said. “I usually just watch.”

Joseph Banuelos said he did not take part in any of these pop culture phases either.

“I thought they were interesting to see how everyone went along with it and sort of followed one another,” Banuelos (junior-political science and economics) said.

As the coronavirus pandemic



Sue Ogrocki/AP

continues, Banuelos said he thinks there are less social media trends now.

“People are just making videos that express themselves,” Banuelos said.

“It’s very interesting to see how one thing can catch on, and the next thing you know, everyone’s talking about it.”

Rather than following new pop culture trends, Banuelos said he rewatched his old favorite shows, and started some new ones like “Schitt’s Creek.”

For Adam Norris, quarantine defined a few of his own phases over the past year.

“I just kind of went with the flow,” Noris (sophomore-mechanical engineering) said.

Norris said he’s taken up a “home gym kick,” because he has concerns about how safe public gyms are. As the weather gets colder, Norris said he’s started to work out in parking garages to break the wind.

According to Norris, quarantine gave him the time to pick up old interests, like jazz music and various video games.

Like many other students, Norris caved and watched “Tiger King,” because he felt like he had to.

Audrey Carrell said she is “addicted” to TikTok. She watched “Tiger King,” but didn’t try whipped coffee.

“I think it’s all fun. I enjoy it,” Carrell (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. “‘Tiger King’ was good — I watched it with my family.”

Carrell said she thinks many “phases” originated from people looking for something to do with their time.

“I watched a lot of movies — just like movies on Netflix and stuff,” Carrell said. “I rewatched ‘New Girl.’”

Carrell also thinks her social media usage increased throughout 2020.

But, Margaret Matous said she tends to stay off social media when possible.

“I rejected that kind of entertainment, I suppose,” Matous (freshman-division of

undergraduate studies) said.

Matous said she thinks pop culture trends and “phases” during the coronavirus pandemic have occurred slightly as a distraction for many people.

“I hate TikTok,” Matous said. “It puts really bad expectations on people. Social media, in general, has been proven to decrease mental health.”

Instead, Matous has been watching mostly “comedies or historical dramas” throughout the year. She recently watched “The Great” on Hulu, which is about Catherine the Great of Russia.

“[I] don’t know if it’s historically accurate, but it’s very entertaining,” Matous said.

Nathan Alvarado said people had nothing to do but “resort to their phones” during the quarantine, which caused many of the trends.

However, Alvarado (junior-aerospace engineering) believes the past few months have been defined by more than pop culture trends.

Alvarado said the Black Lives Matter protests and the presidential election were crucial parts of 2020 that created distinct periods in the year as well.

Moises Hernandez said he participated in many pop culture trends during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

“‘Tiger King...’ was one of the most bizarre things I think I’ve ever watched,” Hernandez (sophomore-biobehavioral health) said.

Hernandez said he “never really got into” whipped coffee, but his sister did.

Moreover, Hernandez said he spent a lot of time on TikTok in the spring and summer, but this has decreased since starting school again.

“Every week there was always something new online,” Hernandez said. “It’s what everyone was doing.”

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What are the best albums of 2020?

By Ariana Krammes
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Although some Penn State students have considered 2020 to be quite tumultuous, new music releases brought a silver lining to the end of the year.

Sam McGuire said Dua Lipa’s “Future Nostalgia” has been her favorite album release this year.

“I do not have a specific answer or reasoning,” McGuire (sophomore-secondary education and social studies) said. “I just really vibe with the energy and sound [“Future Nostalgia”] had going on. It truly did fit this ‘future nostalgic’ idea, and while it is just pop music, its sound felt different.”

McGuire said her runner-ups for best album of 2020 are “Ungodly Hour” by Chloe x Halle, “folklore” by Taylor Swift and “Positions” by Ariana Grande.

“I grew up listening to a bit of R&B, so the sound [of “Ungodly Hour”] just brings me comfort sometimes,” McGuire said. “Chloe x Halle have such lovely voices and wonderful creativity that this album just gave off a heavenly, divine feel.”

Fernando Quintanilla said he listened to a lot of new music in 2020, but the posthumous album “Circles” by Mac Miller, who died in 2018, became his favorite.

“I didn’t listen to a lot of Mac Miller beforehand, but every project I listened to from him, I felt like his music was very

revolutionizing and really trying to go on a different sound,” Quintanilla (junior-economics) said. “I just felt like out of all the albums he was trying to connect with his music, ‘Circles’ was his best project where he was really able to do that. For his last project, it was really good how everything just came into a full circle.”

Quintanilla added that The Weeknd and Bad Bunny released two of his other favorite albums this year.

Owen Bennett said the Gorillaz’s album “Song Machine: Season One—Strange Timez” was one of his favorite albums of 2020, with Phoebe Bridgers’ “Punisher” as a close second.

“I just really appreciate the way that [Gorillaz’s songwriter] Damon Albarn blends a lot of genres. I feel like he always adds some cool degree of authenticity to it,” Bennett (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) said. “I feel like the cartoon-y vibe that the Gorillaz kind of embodies is making a statement.”

Bennett also said “Song Machine” has a “really great” production value, making it fun to listen to because there is “a lot going on” in every song.

“Kid Krow” by Conan Grey is Catarina Rodrigues’ favorite album of 2020 because of its combination of upbeat and sad songs.

“All the songs tell different stories. They’re really personal to [Grey], which is really nice,” Rodrigues (freshman-food

science) said. “I love Conan Grey as an artist, because he started off as an independent artist on GarageBand in his house. I like music production and that kind of thing, so it’s inspirational for me in many ways.”

Rodrigues said she enjoyed Ariana Grande’s “Positions” as her second choice.

“Out of Body” by NEED-TOBREATHE was Georgia Young’s favorite album of this year because of its “joy” and relatability.

“‘Out of Body’ came out at the end of August, so right when we got back to school,” Young (sophomore-elementary and early childhood education) said.

“I feel like it came at a perfect time because all of the tracks on it are just so hopeful, and they cover a range of experiences that everyone can sort of relate to.”

Young said when “Out of Body” was released, the artist sold tickets for a virtual concert. She and several of her friends bought tickets and projected the concert outside, where they were able to watch while remaining socially distanced.

“That was a unique experience that I wouldn’t have gotten if COVID wasn’t going on right now,” Young said. “It’s definitely something that I will always remember.”

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Puzzles

Across

1 “Woe is me!”
5 Stately trees
9 Flu source
13 Supermarket section
14 Navy commando
15 Cake topper
16 Carbon compound
17 Pseudonym of H. H. Munro
18 Poet’s “below”
19 Peddle
21 Chooses
23 Bygone bird
24 Kind of welder
27 Country club figure
28 Thick spicy stew
31 Aquarium denizen
32 Engine part
35 Abysmal test score
36 Debt instrument
38 Dodge
40 Jessica of *Sin City*
41 Bone china name
43 Hubbubs
44 Nero’s instrument
46 Hibernia
47 Twins, e.g. (Abbr.)
48 Cambodian coin
49 Round Table title
51 Allergic reaction
53 Bake sale org.
54 Scoundrel
55 Card game for two
58 Goes bad

60 Jai ____
64 Stood up
66 Gossip tidbit
69 Chances
71 Not quite right
72 Lyra’s brightest star
73 Big party
74 Brain wave
75 Heroic poem
76 Old World duck

6 Grassland
7 Ocean menace
8 Spinal vertebrae rupture
9 Air hero
10 Thailand, once
11 Division word
12 Turkish official
15 Boot part
20 Fall behind
22 Three (Ital.)
26 Helpful
28 Contradict
29 Type of renewal
30 Stable color
32 Gulf of ____, Spain
33 Hacienda brick
34 Military meal

35 Nukes
37 ____’easter
39 Bud holder
42 Sicilian resort
45 Fish hawk
50 “What was ____ do?”
52 Writer LeShan
55 Dry riverbed
56 Desiccated
57 Lasso
59 Aerobic bit
61 Records
62 Comic Sandler
63 Loafing
65 Hot springs
67 Conceit
68 More, in Madrid
70 Toothed tool

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WORD SEARCH

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A Game of Chess

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

ATTACK
BISHOP
BLOCK
CAPTURE
CASTLING
CHAMPIONSHIP
CHECKMATE
CLOCK
DEEP BLUE
DIAGONAL

ENDGAME
FISCHER
GAMBIT
GRANDMASTER
JUMP
KASPAROV
KING
KNIGHT
MATCH
OPENING

PAWN
PIECE
QUEEN
ROOK
SACRIFICE
SCORE
STALEMATE
STRATEGY
TOURNAMENT
WIN

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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sudoku

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LION'S LIST

BUY IT ——— SELL IT ——— RENT IT

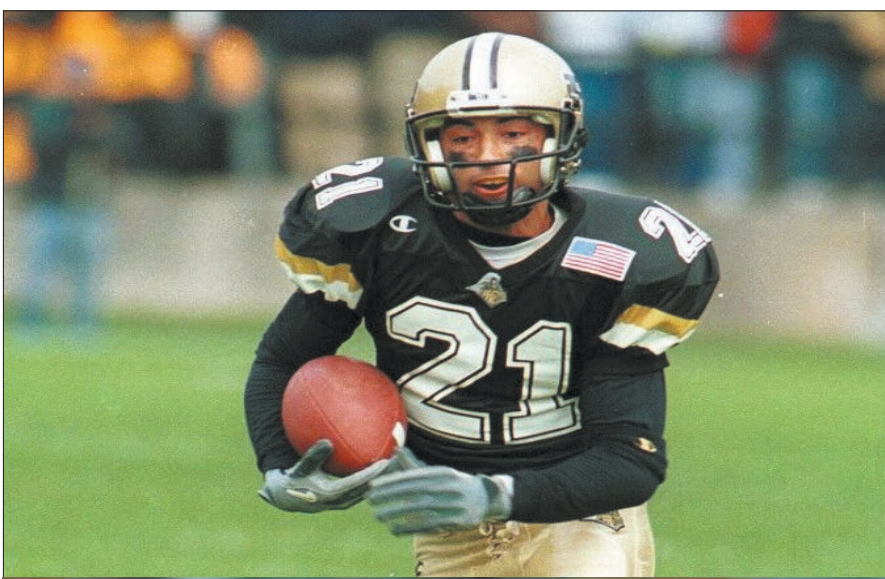
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BIG

RETURN



Photos Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Penn State wide receivers coach Taylor Stubblefield has embraced his Big Ten comeback after a record-breaking collegiate career.

By Andrew Porterfield
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Already up 20-3 in the opening minutes of the third quarter, Purdue wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield lined up on the outside at his own 3-yard line with his back against the striped end zone of Notre Dame Stadium.

Quarterback Kyle Orton took the snap and — before an Irish cornerback could even get set — Stubblefield was off to the races in front of a hostile 80,000-plus crowd.

The wide receiver ran toward the opposite end zone, beating his man in the process. And at the Boilermakers’ 25-yard line, he caught the touch pass from his field general.

Stubblefield knew he was making it to pay dirt just a few steps later at the 35-yard line, putting up his arm in jubilation for the duration of his 65-yard mad dash to the goal line.

Brock Spack, Purdue’s defensive coordinator at the time, remembers the play as one of the best and most explosive in his 12-year tenure as a coordinator at the Big Ten program.

“I have a picture of him running into the end zone on my wall downstairs at home,” Spack told The Daily Collegian. “That’s my image of him as a player — running down the Notre Dame sideline.”

That 97-yard touchdown grab in 2004 was the nail in the coffin, as Purdue grabbed its first win at Notre Dame since 1974 — Ara Parseghian’s last season as Irish head coach.

Stubblefield finished that early October affair with 181 receiving yards and two touchdowns to help the Boilermakers remain undefeated on the young season.

The stat line against Notre Dame wasn’t that out of the ordinary for the senior wide-out, as he left the college game as the then-NCAA Division 1A (now FBS) all-time leader in career receptions, with 325 catches in his four-year stint.

Stubblefield helped the

Boilermakers make history, and now he’s looking to do the same at Penn State in the conference in which he made a name for himself as a player.

But this time, in a headset and quarter-clip.

Penn State hired Stubblefield in January as the program’s latest wide receivers coach, after Gerad Parker left the school after one season to become the offensive coordinator at West Virginia.

Stubblefield had previously served in the same position at other Power Five programs such as Wake Forest, Utah and Miami.

Spending a short time in the NFL and CFL after his college playing career, Stubblefield quickly returned to the field Saturdays as the wide receivers coach at Central Washington in his home state.

Just two years later, a familiar face came to Stubblefield with a job offer — Spack wanted the young coach to follow him to FCS program Illinois State.

Spack took over the Redbird program in 2009 and was looking to add a wide receivers coach on his staff, eventually landing on the player-turned-coach with Purdue ties.

“He was really smart, and he was like a coach on the field when he was a player,” Spack said.

“He wasn’t here very long, but I’m happy to have kept him for as long as I did.”

In the seasons since his two-year tenure at Illinois State, Stubblefield has risen on the coaching totem pole.

As a part of major staff turnover for Penn State in which four new position coaches were hired this past offseason, Stubblefield has embraced being on the sidelines at one of the traditional powerhouse programs in all of college football.

“I flat out love this conference, and I love being a part of Penn State football,” Stubblefield said.

Leading a position group that has lost players such as KJ Hamler and Justin Shorter

in the past year, Stubblefield’s squad has featured inexperienced, unknown players at the top of the depth chart.

In the Nittany Lions’ most recent game against Nebraska, two true freshmen Parker Washington and KeAndre Lambert-Smith started alongside No. 1 receiver Jahan Dotson.

Having witnessed Stubblefield himself make an impact right off the bat at Purdue, Spack sees his coaching abilities as an extension of his skills on the field.

“He played as a young player for us at Purdue in a pretty good passing attack,” Spack said. “He can make it simple for guys to understand concepts, because he played the position and was a young player at one time in the Big Ten.”

Under their new coach’s tutelage, Washington and Lambert-Smith have combined for 303 receiving yards and three touchdowns through their first four collegiate games.

But it hasn’t just been Penn State’s young, inexperienced wideouts who have reaped the benefits of Stubblefield’s coaching.

Dotson has rocketed into becoming one of the top wide receivers in the Big Ten after a quiet sophomore season in 2019.

From the moment Stubblefield arrived at the Lasch Building, Dotson has been soaking up his knowledge of the game.

“He had a similar game to me, so he’s been teaching me some things he’s been doing,” Dotson said during Penn State’s media days. “I’m just taking it and putting it into my game.”

Dotson is currently the fifth-ranked wide receiver in the conference, averaging 97 receiving yards per game with a conference high five touchdown grabs.

Through adversity, the Nittany Lion receivers have been consistently reliable for a team still looking for its first win.

Redshirt junior receiver Cam Sullivan-Brown believes he and his teammates have directly benefited from Stubblefield’s history.

“He knows how to win against DBs, being the all-time leading receiver for Purdue,” Sullivan-Brown said during Penn State’s media days. “It gives him some extra dependability.”

While it’s expected for a team to get dented after an 0-4 start to the season, Stubblefield has instilled a confidence and work ethic in his wide receiver group in practice.

“He brings a lot of energy, so he keeps us pumped every day,” redshirt sophomore Daniel George said during Penn State’s media days. “One of his favorite sayings is ‘make sure your chili is hot,’ he says that every day to make sure we’re locked in and ready for practice.”

But Stubblefield hasn’t only developed a working relationship with the players he’s coaching — he’s also forged a personal connection.

During downtime, Stubblefield often finds himself relating his players’ experiences to that of his own.

“I really think that top to bottom, this is an extremely tough conference, and playing in Beaver Stadium is electric,” Stubblefield said. “It does allow me to bond a little bit with my players, just in regards to ‘Hey, I’ve been able to do some of these things too.’”

A 2015 inductee to the Purdue Intercollegiate Hall of Fame, Stubblefield’s individual accolades signaled a time of prosperity for a traditionally underwhelming football program.

Randy Roberts, a distinguished professor at Purdue

with a specialization in sports history among other topics, remembers Stubblefield as a key cog in the overachieving Boilermaker program of the late 1990s and early 2000s.

“When I think of Taylor, I think of the really great seasons Purdue had and when the games were so much fun to go to because they threw the ball around,” Roberts told the Collegian.

Stubblefield became the Big Ten’s all-time leading receiver as a senior in 2004, as the Boilermakers defeated Penn State 20-13 inside the confines of Beaver Stadium.

The coach isn’t the only member of the wide receiver position group who broke a record inside Beaver Stadium, though.

George tallied a 95-yard reception against Kent State as a true freshman in 2018, breaking the Beaver Stadium record for longest reception.

And sometimes, George gets a little tired of hearing about Stubblefield’s accomplishments.

“He told me he broke some record inside our stadium here, and he loves talking about that,” George said. “I was like, ‘You’re not the only one with a record in there.’”

The Nittany Lions, now looking to improve their Beaver Stadium record this season, have leaned on the receiver group with a fresh face in the locker room.

And while Penn State may currently be reeling, the wide receiver corps has cherished every moment it has had with Stubblefield at the helm.

“Coach Stubblefield is a great guy. I’ve enjoyed every moment with him so far,” Dotson said. “He comes out to practice every day cracking jokes, but when he’s ready to get to business — he’s ready to get to business.”

“One of his favorite sayings is ‘make sure your chili is hot,’ he says that every day to make sure we’re locked in and ready for practice.”

Jahan Dotson
Wide receiver

“I really think that top to bottom, this is an extremely tough conference, and playing in Beaver Stadium is electric.”

Taylor Stubblefield
Wide receivers coach

Defensive Breakdown: Touchdowns given up

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's defense has struggled mightily this season after a year where it was one of the best units in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions have given up 17 touchdowns this season — nine passing, six rushing and two defensive touchdowns. Only two teams in the conference are surrendering more points per game than Penn State's 34.8 — Maryland and Minnesota. Iowa, which has played an equal four games to the Nittany Lions, has given up 20 points per game less than Penn State at 14.8 — though Iowa has also had a much easier schedule in those four games. So what happened that led to each of those 17 touchdowns given up by Penn State? I separated the 17 scores into five different categories based on the most direct cause in order to better understand what is going wrong on the defensive side of the ball.

Explosive plays and tackling - 7 (41%)

Penn State's biggest problem on defense has been the rate at which it's giving up big plays to opposing offenses and its inconsistency in tackling. James Franklin has consistently talked about needing to improve tackling and winning the explosive play battle, two things that haven't happened yet during the 0-4 start. Against Ohio State, the first play of the game was a jet sweep to wide receiver Garrett Wilson that took the Buckeyes inside the Nittany Lions' 15-yard line and paved the way for an easy score. Later in that game, Penn State gave up a 49-yard touchdown pass to Chris Olave on a double move that gave the wide receiver a step on cornerback Marquis Wilson. This also baited safety Lamont Wade out of his position for coverage over the top in the cover-2 scheme. These issues continued the following week against Maryland, when freshman wide receiver Rakim Jarrett single-handedly



Josie Chen/Collegian

Penn State defensive back Lamont Wade (38) chases Maryland wide receiver Rakim Jarrett (5) during Penn State's game against Maryland at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 7, in University Park, Pa.

dismantled the Nittany Lions' defense on two slant routes. On both plays, Jarrett caught the ball around 10 yards deep, over the middle and found a path to the end zone after the catch. The first went for 42 yards, 30 of which were after the catch as Jarrett was untouched by Penn State defenders who took poor angles in an attempt to make the tackle. The second went for 62 yards, 50 of which came after the catch — Jarrett outran his defender Daequan Hardy, and his speed made it near impossible for either Lamont Wade or Jonathan Sutherland to make a play in the secondary. Later in the game, Terrapins running back Jake Funk would break off a 38-yard touchdown run that was the result of a missed tackle and other Penn State defenders failing to get in the vicinity of the running back. This trend also carried over into the game at Nebraska — on the Huskers' first scoring drive, the Nittany Lions struggled to bring down runners at first contact and gave up yards after the catch on a long drive. Later, Nebraska would run a sweep to a wide receiver that went for 45 yards and a touchdown, without a single defender

making contact with the ball carrier. The big plays make up a vast majority of Penn State's defensive mistakes this season. **Offensive turnovers - 3 (18%)** Penn State's offense has put its defense in tough positions far too often. Against Indiana, Sean Clifford's two interceptions were both a result of overthrows, and both gave the Hoosiers possession in Nittany Lion territory. Only one led to a touchdown, and that was the overthrow to tight end Pat Freiermuth that Indiana was able to return to the 5-yard line before punching it in. Against Maryland and Nebraska, Clifford fumbled the ball and it was scooped up for a touchdown both times. There have been multiple other occasions in which poor offensive possessions either resulted in turnovers or favorable field position for the opposition, but only led to field goals. **Playcalling - 3 (18%)** Defensive play calling hasn't been perfect, but it also hasn't been a huge issue compared to

execution from players on the field. The first touchdown the Nittany Lions gave up this season came on a 12-yard run where Penn State blitzed two linebackers to the strong side. The Hoosiers ran a counter run to the weak side, which completely decimated the Nittany Lions' chances of making a tackle, as it took out half of the defense. Another play call that hurt Penn State in that game was in overtime, when wide receiver Whop Philyor caught the touchdown pass that led to Indiana's game-winning 2-point conversion. Philyor lined up in the slot with Wade on him in press coverage, Philyor ran a corner route after using his outside receiver as a pick, which gave Philyor the separation from Wade to make the catch. Wade doesn't have the speed to stay with Philyor, and the pick play was something that should have been accounted for in that situation. Against Ohio State, quarterback Justin Fields faked a draw on fourth-and-goal and threw to a wide open receiver for a touchdown, after all of Penn State's defenders bit on the run. This ended up in the play-

calling section, but really boils down to the fact that the Nittany Lion defenders weren't attentive enough to stay with receivers. **Miscommunication - 2 (12%)** The two plays Penn State has given up due to miscommunication have come at some of the most inopportune times. Against Ohio State, junior safety Ji'Ayir Brown was late coming onto the field in the Nittany Lions' dollar package where they have five defensive backs playing. The Buckeyes were at the 10-yard line on third down, and as Brown came onto the field, it was clear the defense was confused about its individual assignments. Fields made an easy throw to a wide open tight end over the middle of the field, as a clearly frustrated Penn State defense looked around wondering what had happened — Ohio State went up 21-3 with that score as the half was winding down. Against Maryland, redshirt freshman cornerback Joey Porter Jr. assumed Wade had coverage over the top, when both defensive backs took the underneath route. This led to a wide open Terrapins receiver, as they increased their lead to 28-7 with less than a minute remaining in the first half. **Outliers - 2 (12%)** This category is for two touchdowns that Penn State couldn't have done much about and didn't fit into any of the previous definitions. Indiana quarterback Michael Penix Jr.'s game-tying touchdown drive in the final minute was nothing short of incredible. He made multiple throws into tight windows while being hit by Nittany Lion pass rushers. Against Ohio State, Porter had Olave covered, but wasn't able to get his head around to make a play on the ball — Fields made a perfect throw to beat the coverage anyway.

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PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jonathan Sutherland	S/Jr.	21	Noah Cain	RB/So.	47	Alex Furmanek	LB/Fr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Fr.
1	JaQuan Brisker	S/Sr.	21	Tyler Rudolph	S/Fr.	47	Tommy Friberg	TE/H/Fr.	78	Golden Israel-Achumba	OL/Fr.
2	Micah Bowens	QB/Fr.	23	Curtis Jacobs	LB/Fr.	48	Cody Romano	S/So.	79	Caeden Wallace	OL/Fr.
2	Keaton Ellis	CB/So.	24	Keyvone Lee	RB/Fr.	49	Michael Wright	SN/Fr.	80	Malick Meiga	WR/Fr.
3	Donovan Johnson	CB/Jr.	25	Daequan Hardy	CB/Fr.	50	Max Chizmar	LB/Jr.	80	Justin Weller	WR/Jr.
3	Parker Washington	WR/Fr.	26	Caziah Holmes	RB/Fr.	50	Will Knutsson	OL/So.	82	Zack Kuntz	TE/H/So.
4	Journey Brown	RB/Jr.	27	Aeneas Hawkins	DT/So.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Fr.	83	Johnny Crise	WR/Fr.
5	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB/Sr.	27	Jaden Seider	S/Fr.	51	Jimmy Christ	OL/Fr.	84	Theo Johnson	TE/Fr.
5	Jahan Dotson	WR/Jr.	28	Devyn Ford	RB/So.	52	Blake Zalar	OL/Fr.	84	Benjamin Wilson	WR/Sr.
6	Cam Sullivan-Brown	WR/Jr.	28	Jayson Oweh	DE/So.	53	Fred Hansard	DT/Jr.	85	Isaac Lutz	WR/Sr.
7	Will Levis	QB/So.	29	Sebastian Constantini	CB/Jr.	53	Rasheed Walker	OL/So.	86	Brandon Strange	TE/H/Fr.
8	Marquis Wilson	CB/So.	29	Henry Fessler	WR/So.	54	George French	OL/Fr.	87	Pat Freiermuth	TE/Jr.
9	Joey Porter Jr.	CB/Fr.	30	Joseph Bruno	RB/Fr.	54	Fatorma Mulbah	DT/Fr.	88	Norval Black	WR/Jr.
9	TaQuan Roberson	QB/Fr.	32	Dylan Farronato	S/Fr.	55	Antonio Shelton	DL/Sr.	89	Grayson Kline	TE/H/So.
10	Lance Dixon	LB/Fr.	33	Bryce Mostella	DE/Fr.	55	Anthony Whigan	OL/Jr.	90	Rafael Checa	K/So.
10	TJ Jones	WR/Fr.	34	Shane Simmons	DE/Sr.	56	Amin Vanover	DE/Fr.	91	Chris Stoll	SN/Jr.
11	Daniel George	WR/So.	36	Zuriah Fisher	LB/Fr.	57	Ibrahim Traore	OL/Fr.	91	Dvon Ellies	DT/Fr.
12	Brandon Smith	LB/So.	36	Makai Self	CB/Fr.	59	Kaleb Konigus	OL/So.	92	Jake Pinegar	K/Jr.
13	Ellis Brooks	LB/Jr.	37	Drew Hartlaub	S/Jr.	62	Michal Menet	OL/Sr.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Fr.
13	KeAndre Lambert-Smith	WR/Fr.	36	Tank Smith	RB/Fr.	63	Collin De Boef	OL/So.	93	Levi Forrest	P/Fr.
14	Sean Clifford	QB/Jr.	38	Lamont Wade	S/Sr.	66	Nick Dawkins	OL/Fr.	93	Bradley King	P/Jr.
15	Enzo Jennings	S/Fr.	39	Robbie Dwyer	LB/Fr.	69	C.J. Thorpe	OL/Jr.	94	Jake Wilson	DE/Fr.
16	Ji'Ayir Brown	S/Jr.	40	Jesse Luketa	LB/Jr.	70	Juice Scruggs	OL/So.	95	Cole Brevard	DT/Fr.
17	Joseph Johnson III	CB/Fr.	43	Trevor Baker	TE/H/Jr.	71	Will Fries	OL/Sr.	95	Vlad Hilling	K/So.
17	Mason Stahl	QB/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Fr.	72	Bryce Effner	OL/So.	96	Anthony DaSilva	K/Fr.
18	Shaka Toney	DE/Sr.	44	Joseph Appiah Darkwa	DT/Fr.	73	Mike Miranda	OL/Jr.	97	Carson Landis	K/P/Fr.
19	Trent Gordon	S/So.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Fr.	74	Olu Fashanu	OL/Fr.	97	PJ Mustipher	DT/Jr.
19	Jaden Dottin	WR/Fr.	45	Charlie Katshir	LB/So.	75	Des Holmes	OL/Jr.	98	Jordan Stout	K/P/Jr.
20.	Adisa Isaac	DE/So.	46	Nick Tarburton	DE/So.	76	Justin Kopko	OL/Fr.	98	Dan Vasey	DE/Jr.
						77	Judge Culpepper	DT/So.	99	Coziah Izzard	DT/Fr.



IOWA HAWKEYES

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
1	Aaron Blom	K/Fr.	20	Julius Brents	DB/So.	45	Nick Phelps	P/So.	76	Tyler Elsbury	OL/Fr.
1	Nolan Donald	WR/Fr.	20	Keontae Luckett	RB/Fr.	46	Logan Klemp	LB/So.	77	Alaric Jackson	OL/Sr.
2	Ryan Gersonde	P/Jr.	21	Thomas Hartlieb	DB/Fr.	47	Nick Anderson	LB/Sr.	78	Mason Richman	OL/Fr.
2	Deuce Hogan	QB/Fr.	21	Ivory Kelly-Martin	RB/Jr.	47	Andrew Wilson	TE/Fr.	79	Jack Plumb	OL/So.
3	Keith Duncan	K/Sr.	22	Terry Roberts	DB/So.	48	Ethan Hurdett	DL/Fr.	80	Josiah Miamen	TE/Fr.
3	Tyrone Tracy Jr.	WR/So.	25	Gavin Williams	RB/Fr.	48	Bryce Schulte	TE/Jr.	81	Desmond Hutson	WR/Fr.
4	Dane Belton	DB/So.	26	Jamison Heinz	WR/Fr.	49	Nick Niemann	LB/Sr.	82	Calvin Lockett	WR/So.
4	Leshon Williams	RB/Fr.	26	Kaevon Merriweather	DB/So.	50	Zach Kluver	LS/Fr.	83	Alec Krita	WR/Fr.
5	Jestin Jacobs	LB/Fr.	27	Jermari Harris	DB/Fr.	50	Louie Stec	DT/Fr.	84	Sam LaPorta	TE/So.
6	Ihmir Smith-Marsette	WR/Sr.	27	Jack Johnson	WR/Fr.	51	Coy Cronk	OL/Sr.	84	Austin Spiewak	LS/Sr.
7	Reggie Bracy	DB/Fr.	28	Jack Koerner	DB/Jr.	52	Asher Fahey	OL/Fr.	85	Luke Lachey	TE/Fr.
7	Spencer Petras	QB/So.	28	Isaiah Wagner	WR/Fr.	53	Spencer Daufeldt	DL/Fr.	85	Logan Lee	OL/Fr.
8	Matt Hankins	DB/Sr.	29	Sebastian Castro	DB/Fr.	54	Matt Fagan	OL/So.	86	Tommy Kujawa	TE/Jr.
8	Alex Padilla	QB/Fr.	29	Jackson Ritter	WR/Fr.	54	Daviyon Nixon	DT/Jr.	86	Jameson Witte	DL/Fr.
9	Jack Combs	WR/Jr.	30	Quinn Schulte	DB/Fr.	55	Luke Empen	OL/So.	87	Elijah Yelverton	TE/Fr.
9	Tory Taylor	P/Fr.	31	Jack Campbell	LB/So.	56	Nick DeJong	OL/Fr.	88	Isaiah Bruce	DL/Fr.
10	Mehki Sargent	RB/Sr.	32	Djimon Colbert	LB/Jr.	57	Chauncey Golston	DL/Sr.	88	Jackson Frericks	TE/Fr.
10	Caleb Shudak	K/Sr.	32	Johnny Plewa	FB/Fr.	57	Clayton Thurm	OL/Fr.	89	Nico Ragaini	WR/So.
11	Connor Kapisak	QB/So.	33	Riley Moss	DB/Jr.	58	Taylor Fox	DL/Fr.	90	Taajhir McCall	DL/Fr.
11	AJ Lawson	DB/Fr.	34	Jay Higgins	LB/Fr.	60	Noah Fenske	OL/Fr.	91	Lukas Van Ness	DL/Fr.
12	Brandon Smith	WR/Sr.	35	Barrington Wade	LB/Sr.	61	Cole Banwart	OL/Sr.	92	John Waggoner	DL/So.
13	Joe Evans	DE/So.	36	Mike Timm	LB/So.	63	Justin Britt	OL/Fr.	93	Jake Karchinski	DL/Fr.
13	Henry Marchese	DB/Jr.	37	Kyler Fisher	DB/Fr.	64	Kyler Schott	OL/Jr.	94	Yahya Black	DL/Fr.
14	Quavon Matthews	WR/Fr.	38	Monte Pottebaum	FB/So.	65	Tyler Lindenbaum	OL/So.	95	Logan Jones	DL/Fr.
15	Dallas Cradeth	DB/So.	40	Turner Pallissard	FB/So.	66	Dalles Jacobus	DL/Sr.	96	Lucas Amaya	K/Fr.
15	Tyler Goodson	RB/So.	40	Josef Smith	LB/Fr.	69	Tyler Endres	OL/Fr.	96	Jack Heflin	DL/Sr.
16	Charlie Jones	WR/Jr.	41	Colton Dinsdale	FB/Sr.	71	Mark Kallenberger	OL/Jr.	97	Liam Reardon	LS/Fr.
17	Brenden Deasfernandes	DB/Fr.	42	Shaun Beyer	TE/Sr.	72	Coy Kirkpatrick	OL/Jr.	97	Zach VanValkenburg	DL/Sr.
17	Wyatt Wegener	WR/Fr.	43	Matt Lorbeck	DL/Sr.	73	Cody Ince	OL/So.	98	Chris Reames	DL/Fr.
18	Diante Vines	WR/Fr.	44	Seth Benson	LB/So.	74	Austin Schulte	DL/Sr.	99	Noah Shannon	DL/So.
19	Max Cooper	WR/Sr.	45	Deontae Craig	DL/Fr.	75	Josh Volk	OL/Fr.			

What Will Levis adds to offense

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Will Levis has sparked a quarterback competition. Levis took over for Sean Clifford in the second quarter of the Nittany Lions’ game against Nebraska, after two turnovers from Clifford gave the Huskers an early lead. Clifford now has six interceptions on the season, after throwing only seven all of last season, as well as two fumbles that have been returned for touchdowns. Penn State has not named a starter for Saturday’s game against Iowa, but Levis is certainly in consideration more than he was a week ago. “We feel really good about both of our quarterbacks,” offensive lineman Michal Menet said. “Will was able to give us a spark in that game that we needed, but at the end of the day we’re confident in both of our quarterbacks and trust both of them a ton.”

One thing stands out that has been repeated by players and James Franklin since the loss to Nebraska — Levis had a spark that was needed. “[Levis] is a strong-armed player, high energy and high character guy,” linebacker Ellis Brooks said. “Both of them are great players. Will came in and gave us that spark.” Levis went 14-for-31 passing for 219 yards, which included a 74-yard bomb to tight end Pat Freiermuth. With the result against Nebraska remaining the same as the prior three games of the season — another first half deficit created by turnovers and a slow offensive start proving to be too much to overcome — Levis might be the answer



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Will Levis (7) throws the ball in a football game against Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska. Levis replaced starting quarterback Sean Clifford in the second quarter. James Franklin has yet to name a starting quarterback ahead of the Nittany Lions game against Iowa.

that Penn State is hoping for. He’s been far from perfect in his few moments of action this season — a delay of game penalty and a costly fumble inside Indiana’s 10-yard line killed a potential scoring drive in the opening week. But what he showed against the Huskers was that he can be the guy at quarterback, if needed. “Both of them are elusive players, can use their legs, obviously Will is used a lot in the quarterback run game,” Brooks said. “He can bring you different aspects in your fits and schemes.” The Nittany Lions have

relied heavily on Clifford running the ball this season — he is fifth in the Big Ten in rushing attempts this season with 58 and the only quarterback inside the top-10 in rushing attempts. Levis is a more natural dual-threat quarterback and has been used in packages as a designed runner throughout his time at Penn State. Levis carried the ball 18 times against Nebraska, which was the most on the team, and tallied 61 yards, just five less than running back Devyn Ford, who nearly matched his season-high of 69 yards on the ground. “Will does a fairly good job with the read-option and stuff like that, it helps with the system — so does Sean, too,” Ford said. “It helps a lot, what we do with both our quarterbacks, and it definitely gives

the running backs a little bit of a break, take the ball off of us.” Levis got extended playtime last season against Ohio State when Clifford went out with an injury. In that game, Levis ran 18 times for 34 yards and scored a touchdown as the Nittany Lions attempted to mount a comeback — he was a spark in that moment as well. “Will is just a workhorse like so many guys in this program. Will really just kept his head down and grinded every day,” Mustipher said. “No matter what his role is, I saw him working when he was where he was freshman year — a lot of guys were in front of him, he wasn’t playing, he was redshirting.” Levis has been a key part of the offense as the backup quarterback since the start of last season.

His teammates have noticed that his work ethic and mentality have put him in position to succeed. “I always see him coaching up guys, I always see him being energetic on the field,” Mustipher said. “That’s what you want from your best players on the football team.” Now, with Penn State yet to name a starting quarterback ahead of its game against Iowa, Levis has the chance to get increased reps with the starters and prepare for another potentially expanded role. “[I’m] really excited to see what he can do against Iowa, having a great week of preparation,” Brooks said. “I think he’s going to go out there and perform well.”

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- Physical Therapy:** February 15, 2021 *EXTENDED*
- Occupational Therapy:** January 1, 2021
- Pharmacy:** May 1, 2021



AT



GAME INFO

IOWA AT PENN STATE

Place: Beaver Stadium

Time: Saturday 3:30 EST

TV: BTN

Spread: Iowa -2.5

Over/Under: 47

PLAYERS TO WATCH

Parker Washington

Washington has been a surprise for Penn State at wide receiver. The freshman has hauled in 19 passes this season and has shown the ability to be a big play threat, which a struggling Penn State offense needs.

Jesse Luketa

Iowa once again comes into Beaver Stadium with its typical run-heavy offense. Luketa is going to have to play physical, make solid reads and be a sure tackler in order for Penn State to win.

BY THE NUMBERS

13

Penn State's offense has scored 13 touchdowns this season, which is eighth best in the Big Ten

34

Penn State's defense has given up 34.8 points per game this season, which ranks 12th in the Big Ten.

29

Tight end Pat Freiermuth has hauled in a reception in 29 straight games.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Penn State football coach James Franklin stands on the sideline during a football game against Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Nittany lost to the Cornhuskers 30-23 to fall to 0-4 on the season, which is the program's worst start since 2001.

Penn State details testing challenges

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

James Franklin knows fans across the nation turn on Penn State football every Saturday afternoon as an escape — a distraction from their everyday lives and a chance to enjoy the Nittany Lions.

Franklin also knows this fall, fans haven't gotten a lot of enjoyment out of Penn State's 0-4 start. And while the coach knows it's his "responsibility to go out there and play well," there are a lot more factors in the 2020 season than just showing up and playing the game — factors that have provided challenges to his team.

"I think you have to take a look at all the circumstances. You have to look at our team, you have to look at our coaching staff, you have to look at what the off-season was like," Franklin said. "You have to look at the internal challenges we've had... you have to look at things specific to Pennsylvania, specific to Penn State."

The biggest of these challenges is the changes the coronavirus has brought to college football.

The Big Ten has enacted daily testing for the virus — a

necessary step to play — which according to Franklin has resulted in 39 false positives in the football program, and 39 times a player or coach has missed practice.

This is a higher rate than any other team in the conference, and Penn State is still determining why this is the case, according to Franklin.

Following a positive test, that person is placed in isolation, then retested, and if

it is a false positive, receives a negative test later in the day.

One challenge specific to Penn State is that the nearest retesting site is almost a two-hour drive away from State College.

"We have to drive an hour and 45 minutes away, get a test, wait for the test results, and then bring them back," Franklin said. "Obviously, depending where your school is located and the town and city and things like that, everybody has different circumstances and challenges to deal with."

And according to Franklin, there have been multiple players and staff members who have received false positives and went through this process, multiple days in a row, while the rest of the

team is preparing for that week's opponent.

"It can be an emotional roller coaster," Franklin said. "Throughout the week, you have staff members that are going through it, then grad assistants or analysts have to jump into that role for practice that day. This is what 2020 has brought us. We have to find a way to navigate it the best way we can."

Franklin also recognizes there currently isn't an even landscape across college football in terms of testing, as each school has different situations and resources.

"Some places are better, some places are worse, some places have more resources, some places have more challenges," Franklin said. "At the end of the day, you have to navigate it the best you can, and you have to find a way to be successful — and that's what we are battling every single day."

And while Penn State looks to avoid its first 0-5 start in program history Saturday, the players are focused on what they can control.

"It can be a scary thing," kicker Jake Pinegar said. "As long as everybody is following precautions

and doing the things necessary to stay safe, it's just one of those things you can't control. It's a false positive, you have no control over that happening."

Veteran offensive lineman Michal Menet said Penn State has just been employing it's next man up mentality, and everyone has to be ready, as the circumstances change rapidly in 2020.

"I think going into the season, we knew that everybody was going to have to prepare as if they're the starter," Menet said. "We have confidence in every

single guy on our roster to step up and be the next man when they have to."

Starting running back Devyn Ford said the process can be stressful, and is just another thing Penn State has to deal with this season.

"It's a little stressful be-

cause you never know what's going to happen," Ford said. "It's COVID, it's just a lot of stress and thinking a lot, just figuring out what's going on. With the times right now, we kind of just have to be able to be flexible."

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'Tough conversations' vital to avoid 0-5 start

By Benjamin Ferree
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As linebacker and team captain Jesse Luketa addresses the media Saturday evenings following Penn State games, a common phrase has emerged.

Tough conversations. "This is not the standard that Penn State has upheld, ever. We have to find a way," Luketa said following Penn State's 30-23 loss to Nebraska. "We have to have these tough conversations. Everyone needs to take the time to just look in the mirror and see what we can do better collectively."

Luketa echoed a similar sentiment the week before.

"We need to have those tough conversations, move forward, address what we need to do to get back on track," Luketa said following Penn State's loss to Maryland. "All the outside noise is irrelevant. If people are chirping, that's irrelevant."

Penn State is having these conversations, but is still searching for answers in 2020.

The Nittany Lions are currently 0-4 — the program's worst start to a season since 2001 — and

Penn State knows it needs to hold itself accountable in order to get over the hump and into the win column.

"The majority of the conversations are just people telling each other to look in the mirror, take a step back and look at what they can improve on and do better," kicker Jake Pinegar said. "I know personally, I did the same thing. Everybody on this team has — coaches, players, everybody."

"They're kinda taking a step back, evaluating everything, looking to see what they can improve and do better for themselves and for the team."

According to defensive lineman PJ Mustipher, this accountability has to take place at the individual level before the team can come together.

"I can't hold anybody else accountable unless I'm looking at myself in the mirror first," Mustipher said. "I have to look at everything I'm doing on and off the field and see if it correlates to winning football. If I'm not doing that, then I have to change what I'm doing."

With this individual responsibility however, Luketa is being careful to make sure he doesn't put too much individual pressure

on himself — something that normally leads to disappointing performances.

"At times, I'm at fault for that," Luketa said about trying to do too much. "Sometimes you try to make the play, but at times you need to stay in the framework and allow your teammates to do so. I think a big point of our emphasis is getting back to the basics, trusting what you see, trusting your keys and your eyes, and just playing as one."

A big part of this for linebacker Ellis Brooks is making sure Penn State pays close attention to the details.

"Constantly, our coaches have been [emphasizing the details], and I feel like we've been doing that, but we need to do more — and we will do more, and we will continue to find that 1% and find areas we can improve in," Brooks said.

Ultimately, however, Luketa is seeing these changes on the practice field — he is just unsure why they aren't translating to the game field Saturday.

"I'm not sure — I can't pinpoint exactly why it is," Luketa said. "We haven't been able to execute as much as we want to, but it's the attention to detail, cleaning

up the little things, because this week is a great opportunity to get over that hump."

However, Mustipher knows Penn State is continuing to evaluate itself and grow as it experiences adversity in 2020.

"We have a great group of guys on this team and we all hold ourselves to a high standard," Mustipher said. "And that's just what it has to be for us to be the team we want moving forward this season."

According to Luketa, Penn State isn't going to let this slow start define them. And while the Nittany Lions' preseason goal of winning a Big Ten Championship is long gone — Penn State is still a hungry football team.

"Our confidence level is still there. It's a standard, a Penn State standard, and there is no reason for us to have a drop off," Luketa said. "We currently aren't where we want to be, but all of that is in the past now. The only thing we can be focused on is the assuring we attack these next five games and finish strong."

"We're hungry, we're resilient and we know what we need to do."

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Benjamin Ferree



Ferree

What to watch for: Penn State will make history Saturday by going 0-5 for the first time. The Nittany Lions will be competitive, but

Iowa will be able to grind out a win as the Penn State defense will struggle to stop the Hawkeye's potent run game.

Score: Iowa 27, Penn State 23

Evan Patrick



Patrick

What to watch for: Iowa's offense hasn't done much this season, but its defense has consistently shown up. Penn State will struggle to move the ball in this one

and won't be able to put up enough points, despite an improved defensive performance. The Hawkeyes will control the game.

Score: Iowa 20, Penn State 13

Justin Morganstein



Morganstein

What to watch for: There is nowhere to go but up as the Nittany Lions stand as the final winless team in the Big Ten. But with Iowa coming off two consecutive

convincing victories, Penn State will proceed to get off to the worst start in program history by losing a fifth straight game.

Score: Iowa 24, Penn State 16

Andrew Porterfield



Porterfield

What to watch for: After a sluggish start, Iowa has trounced its past two opponents with a combined score of 84-14 while showing off an explosive

run game. Penn State hasn't yet demonstrated an ability to stop the run, and that won't change in the "Generation of Greatness" game.

Score: Iowa 38, Penn State 27

Guest Picker: Becky Marcinko



Marcinko

What to watch for: Penn has been riding the struggle bus this season, however I think this game is the one where the team gets off it.

This will definitely be an exciting game and will give the Nittany Lions a lot to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving season.

Score: Penn State 21, Iowa 14