



VERSUS

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WASHINGTON (5-4) **(7-1) No. 6 PENN STATE**
HUSKIES **NITTANY LIONS**



UNLEASHING THE WHITE OUT

FEATURING THE DAILY UW



Graphic by: Isabella Viteri
Photos by: Sienna Pinney, Jackson Ranger, Tyler Mantz

‘STILL A LOT TO PLAY FOR’

Drew Allar knows the season is far from over despite the Ohio State loss

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Drew Allar sat teary-eyed during his postgame media availability last year against Ohio State. He said his performance against the Buckeyes “sucked” and compared the feeling to losing his final high school game in his first loss as a starter at Penn State.

The season wasn’t over at the time, as a shot at the College Football Playoff was still within reach, but a loss to the eventual national champion in Michigan ultimately ended those chances. A season later, the Nittany Lions lost to the Buckeyes again for their first loss of the campaign.

“We didn’t win enough moments throughout the game today to put ourselves in a position to win the game,” Allar said. “It’s just going to be, again, a lot of reflecting and what we could have done better to put ourselves in a position to win those moments.”

In the loss to the Wolverines in 2023, the players felt like the season was over. The squad went on to go 10-3 with a Peach Bowl loss to Ole Miss, though several opt outs for the NFL, injuries and coaching changes played a major role in the game.

The ultimate goal was to compete in the College Football Playoff, which was a possibility with the talent on the roster. While it didn’t come to fruition in past years, the path is still in front for Penn State to have a shot at a national championship.

“We gotta flush it and move on to Washington. We can’t allow one loss to turn into two,” James



Kevin Cheng/Collegian

Quarterback Drew Allar (15) throws the ball during the game against Ohio State on Nov. 2, 2024 in University Park, Pa. The Buckeyes defeated the Nittany Lions 20-13.

Franklin said. “The reality of college football is everything is still ahead of us, and we gotta do a great job of making the corrections, eliminating the things that were unforced errors.”

It’s a similar situation to last year, with Penn State being handed its first loss of the season by Ohio State. But this time, the squad has an easier route to the playoffs, and the playoff is expanded to 12 teams.

Allar knows the offense has to come back to practice and attack every minute with the same dedication and not let the loss play a bigger factor.

“It just comes down to execution,” Allar said. “And offensively, we did not execute enough today. So it’s going to be reflecting on that again and seeing what areas we can do better.”

A year ago following defeats, Allar let his emotions get the best

of him. Following the loss to Ohio State, the gunslinger showed the team his improvement as a leader. Linebacker Kobe King said it was his “demeanor” that let him know they’re not out of the playoff mix just yet. “He’s definitely gonna step up for us for the rest of the season, and he’s gonna bring other guys up with him,” King said.

Allar said the team can “learn and grow” from the loss. Penn State is still playing for a shot at

the postseason and a chance at a national championship, so the team knows the loss to the Buckeyes can’t bleed into the rest of the schedule.

“We have a lot in front of us. There’s still a lot to play for,” Allar said. “We’re going to need to flush this over the next 24 to 36 hours, move on and not let it snowball.”

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Sienna Pinney/Collegian

Offensive lineman Olaivavega Ioane rings the Victory Bell after the Penn State football Stripe Out game against UCLA on Oct. 5, 2024 in Beaver Stadium. The Nittany Lions beat the Bruins 27-11.

Ioane set to face hometown team

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It takes about an hour to get from where Vega Ioane grew up in Graham, Washington, to the University of Washington.

The Huskies were the hometown team and the offensive lineman originally planned on joining them after committing on June 11, 2021.

“I wasn’t really a big football guy until like high school, so they were my first offer,” Ioane said. “The whole coaching staff, coach (Jimmy) Lake. I was close with them, but, you know, they all got let go, so things weren’t really working out with them, so I de-committed.”

So a decommitment came on Dec. 12 of that year, and a pledge to Penn State occurred on Feb. 2, 2022.

At the time of the commitment, odds were low that Ioane would face off against the team he originally planned on playing for. With conference realignment, Washington joined the Big Ten, and Io-

ane will clash with the Huskies on Saturday.

The redshirt sophomore said his brother will come to Happy Valley to cheer him on, and he knows a few players he’ll be competing against. He said “it’s gonna be cool playing the hometown team.” “Playing a hometown team who I was committed to — I guess people kind of see it like a rivalry kind of game,” Ioane said. “I’ve seen some people saying that I made a mistake coming here. I’m gonna find out Saturday, but we’ll see.”

Ioane has been one of the most statistically efficient offensive lineman in the country. While he’s been playing some of his best ball, the Penn State offensive line has struggled as of late, particularly getting the run game going.

“We didn’t get movement up front. We got two of the better running backs in the country,” James Franklin said. “You want to try to feed those guys and allow them to get downhill.”

After catching the college football world by surprise by laying

a pancake block against UCLA after motioning from the slot, he’s been frequently lined up out wide since.

Ioane said it’s “fun” the way he’s been utilized in Andy Kotelnicki’s scheme and he loves going in motion, but the production from the offensive line has been more of a sour note and he knows it needs to get fixed.

“We got to do some things better scheme wise, but also we got to do a little bit better job with the fundamentals, and technique wise to make sure we get the movement that we need,” Franklin said.

The season is far from over, and Ioane knows the offensive line has to clean up its play in order to reach its full potential.

“The film we’ve seen on Sunday, it’s one block there,” Ioane said. Being able to get the running backs explosive runs. So, you know we’re close, but we gotta keep working.”

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‘The margin of error’

Missed opportunities lead to loss vs. Ohio State

By Avery Hill
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With a chance to take a lead going into half, Drew Allar lofted a back-shoulder fade to Harrison Wallace III. As it hit Wallace’s palms, it bounced out of his grasp, right into cornerback Davison Igbinosun hands, taking Penn State to half down 14-10.

Football’s a game of inches. On Saturday, several bang-bang plays doomed Penn State in its 20-13 loss to Ohio State.

Red zone struggles

The most notable missed opportunity came when Tyler Warren took a direct snap for a 33-yard gain, before being ruled out just short of the end zone. With three runs by Kaytron Allen and an incompletion to Khalil Dinkins, Penn State was unable to capitalize — it’s the last chance it had to win the game.

“Cannot fail inside the five yard line twice and come out with no points,” James Franklin said.

On the opening drive, Penn State marched down the field with ease and all of a sudden fell flat in the red zone, with an illegal man downfield penalty effectively killing the drive.

It was in similar fashion — two runs to Allen and an incompletion on third down, making a 14-play, 61-yard drive go to waste in what could’ve been a tied game at half-time.

“That’s a huge key,” Warren said. “You know you’re supposed to score touchdowns ... that’s on us as an offense.

Penalties

Abdul Carter lined up as a wide nine with his feet active before shifting over to a traditional five-technique. Quickly, he jumped —

The ball didn’t. It was 3rd-and-2, granting Ohio State a first down.

Three plays later, cornerback Eliot Washington II tackled Carnell Tate after a 7-yard gain. Washington stepped over him, drawing an unsportsmanlike conduct and extending the drive again.

The defense had put together good plays, but the penalties ultimately resulted in Ohio State taking its first lead of the game with a touchdown pass.

“That’s just the margin of errors,” defensive tackle Dvon J-Thomas said. “We talk about it all the time. You know that 99% is easy to get to, but that 1% is this big.”

Overall the Nittany Lions had five penalties for 45 yards. A second unsportsmanlike penalty was called on Jaylen Reed early in the game as well.

Close calls

While many of Penn State’s errors were self-inflicted, some came down to the call on the field.

There were plenty of reviews throughout the game, one coming when Quinshon Judkins caught a pass and was walloped by cornerback Cam Miller, losing the ball.

It was ruled a fumble on the field but when it was reviewed, it was overturned despite Judkins turning up the pass.

There also appeared to be missed holding calls as Ohio State tried to contain Abdul Carter. The Nittany Lions weren’t the only team to suffer from close calls, as Will Howard fumbled just before crossing the pylon, giving Penn State the ball.

At the end of the day, Ohio State won where it mattered. The Buckeyes were 6-for-11 on third down compared to Penn State’s 3-for-11, and had just two penalties compared to Penn State’s five.

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Joel Haas



Haas

What to watch for: Penn State suffered its first loss of the season against Ohio State but will

recover to take down Washington and return to the win column. The White Out crowd will be in full effect under the lights of Beaver Stadium, as the Nittany Lions, powered by a strong rushing attack and sound defensive effort, take care of business after a slow start to beat the Huskies comfortably.

Score: Penn State 24, UW 13

Lyle Alenstein



Alenstein

What to watch for: Penn State will bounce back after its first loss against Ohio State, however

it’ll have to grind it out instead of having full control from the jump. Washington’s defense is second in yards allowed per game through the air, so the Penn State rushing attack will step up and control this one after consecutive rough showings on the ground.

Score: Penn State 27, UW 13

Avery Hill



Hill

What to watch for: Penn State comes into Saturday hungry to prove itself after losing to Ohio State. Washing-

ton is a competitive team, but it won’t be enough as the Nittany Lions secure victory with the White Out behind them. Washington defensive coordinator Steve Belichick will have the defense well-prepared, supplementing a dominant showing from Penn State’s defense as the scoreboard depicts a closer game than reality.

Score: Penn State 20, UW 10

Lexie Linderman



Linderman

What to watch for: Washington head coach Jedd Fisch said earlier

this week he’s “not concerned” about the White Out, but he should be. The Happy Valley faithful are going to bring it under the lights this week, and Penn State is going to reward them with a domination of the Huskies on the ground, as Washington has one of the worst rushing defenses in the Big Ten.

Score: Penn State 28, UW 14

Guest Picker: Amy Schafer

Editor-in-Chief

What to watch for: Despite last week’s devastating loss to Ohio State, the Nittany Lions will dominate on the field this week. Penn State’s

defense will have no problem shutting down Washington. This season, the Huskies haven’t performed well on the road, and I expect the White Out atmosphere will be no different.

Score: Penn State 31, UW 17

Coleman’s workload ramps up

By Ty Gilstrap

THE DAILY

Just moments after Jonah Coleman crossed the line of scrimmage, freshman quarterback Demond Williams Jr. celebratorily lifted his right arm high into the Seattle sky.

Leading USC 10-7 with 8:13 remaining in the second quarter, Coleman was still 13 yards from the end zone, but his decision to bounce left — accompanied by a perfect block from senior tight end Keleki Latu — left nothing but open space in front, as the junior running back cruised in for his second touchdown of the night.

As the Husky Stadium siren sang, Coleman flashed two fingers — one for each score — to a collection of cameras along the sideline.

The junior’s pair of touchdowns complemented 104 yards on the ground, the fifth time he’s eclipsed triple-digit rushing yards this season.

But the Stockton, Calif. native was far from pleased with Saturday’s performance.

“I had a couple bad reads,” Coleman said on Tuesday. “Not one of my best games as far as reading holes and trusting everything... Most importantly, we got the win. That’s sort of all it’s about at the end of the day. I can always look back at something and say I can get better at it. Just wanting to be better every week,

each day. Just looking back on it, I felt like it wasn’t one of my better games, even though I did score touchdowns.”

Coleman added: “I’m always going to be hard on myself no matter how good of a game I have. So it’s something I wish I could have done differently, as far as running the ball. I’m not perfect. It’s a hard sport. You have to make a decision before your eyes blink. Not everything is going to be all perfect.”

That’s true, but Coleman may be as close to perfect as you can get this year.

With a running style reminiscent of a bowling ball toppling pins, the junior is tied for fourth in the FBS with 32 rushing plays of 10 or more yards and sixth with 39 scrimmage plays of 10-plus yards. He’s earned a little over four yards after contact per rush, per Parker Fleming, something that caused Penn State head coach James Franklin to describe him as a “big, thick back; hard to bring down.” The only running back that has recorded more yards after contact is Boise State’s Ashton Jeanty — the country’s leading Heisman candidate.

But the physicality can be a curse for the 5-foot-9, 229-pound back, who has been limited at times inside head coach Jedd Fisch’s system, both by play calling and health concerns. In four games this season, Coleman has recorded 15 or less carries. Against Rutgers, where he

touched the ball 16 times for 148 yards, the junior was pulled from a couple drives to receive treatment on the sideline.

The issues nagged Coleman all the way to the bye week, where he recorded his fewest carries this season (nine) against Iowa, the last game before the break.

After intentionally keeping him out of practice for as long as they could, Fisch has scaled up his workload — with Coleman recording 19 carries against Indiana and 23 more against USC. Both of those are his most attempts this season.

“We talked about after the bye week, we felt like Jonah was getting fresher and fresher,” Fisch said on Monday. “We felt we needed that bye week for Jonah to get back to as healthy as he can...It’s just been based upon the volume that he could handle. There were some games earlier in the season where he had 11 [carries], someone else had seven, someone else had five, someone else had four. But we felt where Jonah was physically, where he’s at right now, how he’s feeling, that he can handle all 20 carries.”

Coleman — who was awarded a game ball after the win over USC — accredits extensive time spent in the weight room, cold and hot tubs, and acupuncture in helping his recovery.

“I kind of got into a routine this year,” Coleman said. “I didn’t really understand treatment and things like that when I was a



Amelia Kim/The Daily

Running back Jonah Coleman runs with the ball during Washington’s game against USC on Nov. 2, 2024 at Husky Stadium.

freshman or a sophomore. But understanding it now, I wish I would have taken the training room and recovery and the weight room as seriously back then.”

Washington will certainly be dependent on a fully-healthy Coleman against Penn State’s stout running defense, which ranks No. 14 in the country with 103.4 rushing yards allowed per game. The junior acknowledged the difficulty that lies ahead against a true Big Ten defense.

“Their edge rushers are really good, they have smart players on their defense,” Coleman said. “They’ve got a good interior [defensive] alignment, good safety, sound defense. That’s all you can ask for in the Big Ten, is for everyone to do their job and that’s what they do.”

But before he was done, he added one important qualifier.

“Most of the time.”

Follow him on X @ty_gilstrap



Jack Stern/The Daily

Wide receiver Keith Reynolds celebrates his touchdown run during Washington’s game against USC on November 2, 2024, at Husky Stadium in Seattle, Washington.

Keith Reynolds shines vs. USC

By Ty Gilstrap

THE DAILY

Keith Reynolds lifted the Washington football team up.

And then he broke them down.

Facing first-and-goal from the USC 4-yard line with 13:48 remaining in the fourth quarter, fifth-year quarterback Will Rogers signaled for the motion with his left foot, before handing it off to Reynolds on a jet sweep a few yards behind the line of scrimmage.

The redshirt freshman wide receiver bounced just far enough back to avoid the incoming pressure of a USC defensive lineman, and from there, senior tight end Keleki Latu, sophomore offensive lineman Drew Azzopardi, and senior wide receiver Giles Jackson did the dirty work — delivering enough blocks along the outside for Reynolds to sneak into the end zone.

“A beautiful design, beautiful play call there too,” Big Ten Network’s color commentator Jake Butt said. “Keith Reynolds does a good job as a redshirt freshman, you got to get depth after that handoff because there’s a defensive end coming for you ... But Reynolds bubbles around, which allows him to use his speed to get into the end zone.”

The 4-yard touchdown was the first of Reynolds’ collegiate career, and ended as the deciding score in Washington’s 26-21 win over USC.

The broadcast caught an official encouraging the wide receiver

to move his celebration along, but that didn’t stop it from carrying over to the locker room.

“The guys were so happy for him in the locker room, they had him break us down at the end,” head coach Jedd Fisch said on Saturday. “You can see there’s an appreciation of the way guys practice, and I’d say Keith Reynolds is probably one our best practice players.”

And while the touchdown will likely dominate social media highlights from the Huskies’ (5-4, 3-3 Big Ten) win, it was the other element of Reynolds’ performance that earned postgame praise from Fisch.

After USC scored its opening touchdown of the game, Reynolds fielded the ensuing kickoff and bounced it out to the right side, finding plenty of open space and stiff-arming the kicker on his way to a 50-yard return.

Four plays later, junior running back Jonah Coleman broke free for a 15-yard rushing touchdown to put Washington up two scores.

“I thought the kick return was a huge play for us,” Fisch said. “We haven’t been able to flip the field at all on special teams this year... Putting us on the plus side of the 50 [yard line] and giving us a chance to score a touchdown was huge.”

Holtzclaw’s momentous play

Fisch is unsure of exactly how many plays sophomore edge rusher Lance Holtzclaw participated in Saturday evening.

But he certainly remembers one of them.

On USC’s final offensive play of the game — a fourth-and-4 opportunity from Washington’s 14-yard line — Holtzclaw got past the right tackle and had his hands on redshirt junior quarterback Miller Moss before he even recognized the pressure. With no time left to throw, Moss helplessly tossed a prayer into the part of the field absent of any Trojan wide receivers.

“I can’t remember if that was his first snap of the game or if he had a couple of other rotational snaps in the game,” Fisch said. “But the fact that we put him in on fourth down with fresh legs and a great pass rush skill set. I mean, he just got after the tackle and got after the quarterback. What a way to end the game.”

Fisch added, “And for Lance, he had such joy in the locker room. He was ready to go. It’s a great message to guys that you can’t just think you’re not going in or you can’t predict the future. You just don’t know. So if it was the last play of the game and he went in after not playing for 59 minutes or so, I mean how awesome is that?”

For sixth-year safety Kamren Fabiculanan, he’s certainly hoping that late-game stop will send a message. Specifically, to future opposing offenses.

“We’ve done it in the past,” Fabiculanan said. “It just shows who Death Row is, and trying to carry that tradition and pride of Death Row defense.”

Follow him on X @ty_gilstrap

Huskies’ ceiling unclear after 9 games

By Andrew Sousa

THE DAILY

Following a win over Weber State on Aug. 31, head coach Jedd Fisch emphasized that he wanted the Washington football team’s worst game to be this one. In a new conference, with a new head coach and new players, UW had substantial room to grow; how much it would was the question.

Nine games later, that question is still up in the air.

Amidst a season that is seeing the Huskies (5-4, 3-3 Big Ten) fight for bowl eligibility rather than national championships, sprouts of a program that spring right back to that national prominence are certainly there. Sophomore wide receiver Denzel Boston has emerged as one of the best receivers in college football, leading the Big Ten in receiving touchdowns (nine), while ranking second in receiving yards with 682. Right there with him is freshman quarterback Demond Williams Jr., who has shown flashes of brilliance in his brief appearances this season.

“I do believe that we’re continuing to get better on all three sides of the ball,” Fisch said. “We’re showing signs of improvement, and I do believe that as we are building this program to where we want to be, the goal would of course be to be better on offense, be better on special teams, and be better on defense.”

As the season has gone on, Washington has also improved in late-game finishes, with its victories against then-No. 10 Michigan and USC won in the fourth quarter. To Fisch’s credit, Washington has grown since that opening-day win against Weber State.

It can still grow a whole lot more.

The Huskies’ meltdowns

against Washington State and Rutgers have already been well-documented. Similarly, offensive showings on the road against Iowa and No. 8 Indiana could only be described as “offensive” as UW’s lines became decimated in 40-16 and 31-17 losses, respectively. They’re signs that show the climb back to the top is only getting started.

“I think it’s just part of the process of who you’re playing each week, the process of different guys going in different moments,” Fisch said on Oct. 26. “The consistency of the offensive line or the defensive line, the consistency of the schedule ... you know, we’re playing good teams and it’s hard to get good sometimes right away.”

There has still been lots to takeaway and improve on in Washington’s wins as well. UW did pull out a gutsy 26-21 win over the Trojans (4-5, 2-5 Big Ten) on Saturday, but it also blew a 20-7 lead, gave up a 35-yard touchdown on a fourth-and-9, and needed two fourth-down stops inside of its own 15-yard line to escape. The Huskies need to get better — especially on the road, where it has yet to win this season. But at times, they’ve been able to pull out wins, which has been an encouraging sign during a season that has seen the Huskies cross between development and disaster.

It’s hard to see Washington going anywhere but up the rest of the way; at times this season, it certainly couldn’t go lower. But with two of its final three games coming against top-10 teams, some pain is more than likely ahead for a team that has spent the last two months trying to figure out who it is.

“We just got to go play ball and try to see if we could play the best game we’ve played all year,” Fisch said.

Jedd Fisch
Head Coach

Follow him on X @andrew_soozay

Ty Gilstrap



Gilstrap

What to watch for: These are the types of games that have kept James Franklin in Happy Valley for 11 seasons. Washington has shown flashes, but it’s far from a great team, and if any issues from previous games (red zone, penalties, offensive line, etc.) bleed over into Saturday, Penn State should comfortably earn its 10th win in “White Out” games and keep its College Football Playoff chances alive.

Score: Penn State 27, UW 17

Andrew Sousa



Sousa

What to watch for: Washington has had its fair share of tense road games this season, but nothing compares to what it’ll see on Saturday. A White Out at Penn State is one of the toughest atmospheres anyone can play in, and Washington gets it in its first season in its new conference. Welcome to the Big Ten. The Huskies have the personnel to compete, but without a road win this season, I don’t know if they have the stoicism quite yet.

Score: Penn State 40, UW 13

Jared Tucker

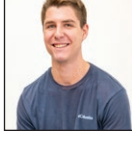


Tucker

What to watch for: Washington has won 19 straight at home, but have lost five straight outside of Husky Stadium. The Huskies have the talent to compete with top teams in the country, but can their struggles on the road hinder them again? Inside the White Out, it sure seems like Washington’s offense will crack under the pressure once again.

Score: Penn State 27, UW 10

Danny Williams



Williams

What to watch for: One important aspect of Saturday’s game will be who draws the assignment of blocking Penn State’s star edge rusher, junior Abdul Carter.. Penn State will be the fiercest defensive line the unit has matched up against thus far, so whether it’s double-teams, chips from the tight ends, or one of the running backs taking one for the team, someone will have to block Carter on Saturday.

Score: Penn State 24, UW 7

‘MORE THAN A FOOTBALL GAME’

Penn State’s annual White Out game has grown into one of the greatest traditions in sports

By Lexie Linderman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

True freshman wide receiver Derek Moye dressed for the very first time in Beaver Stadium, ready to take on Notre Dame in 2007. He knew he’d be met with an electric crowd dressed in white, but Moye couldn’t even begin to imagine the lasting impacts of the first full-stadium White Out.

Penn State’s student section had put together a few White Outs of its own in the three years prior, starting with Purdue in 2004, when the athletic department asked the university’s students to wear white in an attempt to draw a crowd for the 2-3 Nittany Lions.

It wasn’t until that 2007 contest against Notre Dame, though, that the entire crowd donned white. Moye said his teammates had told him how “crazy” the student section White Outs were, but no one knew what was ahead.

“It was mind-blowing,” Moye said. “I didn’t know what to expect, but when I got in the stadium it was kind of like, really just ‘wow.’ Everything kind of seemed brighter. The energy was just so high ... It was a really crazy experience thinking back on it.”

Moye, who ranks seventh all-time at Penn State with 2,395 career receiving yards, played in four more White Outs, but there was one specific moment the receiver can picture to this day, which came against Iowa in 2009.

“It was a rainy day, but the crowd was still full, didn’t care about the rain at all,” Moye said. “At this point in time, I don’t know if I’d heard it at all, or I just wasn’t overly familiar with the song, but they started playing ‘Don’t Stop Believin,’ and literally the whole crowd was singing as the rain was coming down. It was just one of those things I still envision in my mind perfectly to this day.”

The Nittany Lions ended up losing that game to the Hawkeyes, but the dedication of the fans Moye saw that night in Beaver Stadium is the epitome of what makes the White Out special. ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit has referred to the Happy Valley faithful as “the best fans in the country” multiple times, including last week when College GameDay was in town.

Former Penn State running back Evan Royster felt the love of Penn State’s fans for years during his time as a Nittany Lion, with one of the more iconic signs



Ernesto Estremera Jr./Collegian file photo

Attendance reached 109,958 fans in Beaver Stadium for Penn State’s White Out game against Auburn on Sept. 18, 2021 in University Park, Pa. The Nittany Lions beat the Tigers 28-20.

made by Nittanyville being for Royster. The banner featured a play on words of the band Blue Oyster Cult, and the running back remains thankful to the fans all these years later.

“I think that’s what makes the Penn State experience so great. Having fans that truly care about the team is priceless,” Royster said. “The Blue Royster Cult — they gave me that sign, and I still have it in my house right now, so some of the best memories that I have are because of fans at Penn State, so I hope that continues for every class to go through after me.”

As the years have gone on, those same supporters have continued to show up, rain or shine, and break attendance records — half of the top-10 most attended games in Beaver Stadium history were White Outs.

Those are the games the players remember, especially Royster, who broke Penn State’s all-time rushing yards record in front of a sea of white in a win over Michigan in 2010. He said the White Outs “always, always, always” stand out in his mind, despite many games running together now for the 36-year-old.

Moye specifically made an effort to take in the environment

and key in on the crowd during the White Outs, saying he would take a few seconds during warmups to “look up.”

“I took a few more seconds during the warmups ... (when) you have a free second, whether it’s watching the defense play or whether it’s in between TV timeouts, you just kind of look up and see everything that’s going on,” Moye said. “You try to look at specific people and what they’re doing, and then also just kind of taking it in as a whole ... Now it’s like, I look back and I go to the game, it’s like, damn, I used to play here.”

During his return to Happy Valley for the Minnesota contest in 2022, Moye saw firsthand how far the White Out has come since that win over Notre Dame, citing Herbstreit’s claim about Penn State fans as a significant reason for the spectacle’s growth.

“Kirk Herbstreit made the comments that he made, and it just took (the White Out) to a whole nother level,” Moye said. “Since Coach Franklin has gotten there, it’s really just gone from, I would say, from just the crowd being excited, wearing white, to actually, like a full-out event ... The level that Coach Franklin has taken to is amazing. It’s more than even a

football game. The White Out itself is an event.”

As Moye alluded to, the White Out has grown to unprecedented heights. Not only is it an event Penn State fans get excited for, it’s something the national media and college football fans everywhere turn their eyes to and have on their bucket list.

Analyst Rece Davis has been to a few White Outs, and said the atmosphere might not be the “best” in the country, but there are “none better.”

“When everything around you is white, there’s an eeriness to it, and it’s exhilarating,” Davis said. “I think everybody that walks in there for the White Out is fired up, and if you don’t have a tingle running up and down your spine when you walk into a White Out game, you probably don’t have a spine.”

Washington will experience that “tingle” for the very first time Saturday as the Huskies travel to Beaver Stadium for their inaugural visit, where they’ll be met with the iconic fireworks, dark sky and sea of white.

Huskies coach Jedd Fisch said in his weekly press conference he’s “not concerned” about preparing his team for the White Out crowd after experiencing it as a

member of Michigan’s staff.

“I showed the guys what it looks like a little bit on Sunday night. I showed them some clips of, you know, playing at Penn State at the White Out. We did it when I was at Michigan ... talked about that a little bit. ... Showed them some clips of just the energy and the passion to expect,”

Fisch said.

While Washington may be unbothered, Drew Allar and the Nittany Lions are excited for the annual event as Penn State looks to bounce back from its first loss of 2024.

“The White Out is, I don’t even know how to describe it really, it’s insane. I’m honored to be a part of a team that gets to play in an environment like that,” Allar said. “The energy that the crowd and fans bring to this game, and really, all games in general, is unmatched across the country, in my opinion. It’s super special to be a part of it, and as players we don’t take that for granted, we soak in these moments, because you only have one a year, and so many in your career ... It’s going to be fun to just be in that type of atmosphere again this weekend.”

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WASHINGTON HUSKIES

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Leroy Bryant	CB/Fr.	17	Deven Bryant	LB/Fr.	42	Carson Bruener	LB/Sr.	76	Elishah Jackett	OL/Fr.
0	Kevin Green Jr.	WR/So.	17	Teddy Purcell	QB/Jr.	43	Adam Saul	P/Jr.	77	Maximus McCree	OL/Jr.
1	Jonah Coleman	RB/Jr.	18	Camden Sirmon	WR/Jr.	44	Hayden Moore	LB/Fr.	78	Davit Boyajyan	OL/Fr.
2	Caleb Presley	CB/Fr.	18	Jayden Wayne	DE/So.	45	Maurice Heims	DE/Jr.	80	Wilson Schwartz	TE/Jr.
2	Desmond Williams Jr.	QB/Fr.	19	Darren Barkins	CB/Jr.	47	Cameron Warchuck	SN/Jr.	82	Owen Coutts	TE/Jr.
3	Jordan Shaw	CB/Fr.	20	Rahshawn Clark	S/Fr.	48	Jacob Lane	DE/So.	82	Caleb Johnston	SN/So.
3	Rashid Williams	WR/Fr.	21	Dyson McCutcheon	DB/Jr.	49	Griffin Miller	LB/So.	83	Luke Gayton	WR/Fr.
4	Justin Harrington	S/Sr.	21	Daniyel Ngata	RB/Sr.	50	Sebastian Valdez	DL/Sr.	84	Jackson Girouard	WR/Jr.
4	Jordan Washington	RB/Fr.	22	Cameron Davis	RB/Sr.	52	Voi Tunuufi	DE/Sr.	85	Keleki Latu	TE/Se.
5	Zach Durfee	DE/Jr.	22	Peyton Waters	S/Fr.	53	Paki Finau	OL/Fr.	86	Decker DeGraaf	TE/Fr.
5	Giles Jackson	WR/Sr.	23	Jason Robinson Jr.	WR/Fr.	53	Logan Lisherness	LB/Jr.	87	Ryan Otton	TE/So.
6	Jeremiah Hunter	WR/Sr.	24	Makell Esteen	S/Jr.	54	Parker Cross	OL/Fr.	88	Jake Jennings	DE/Jr.
7	Ephesians Prysock	CB/Jr.	24	Adam Mohammed	RB/Fr.	54	Drew Fowler	LB/Sr.	88	Quentin Moore	TE/Sr.
7	Will Rogers	QB/Sr.	25	Ryder Bumgarner	RB/Fr.	55	Jacob Bandes	DL/Sr.	89	Charlie Crowell	TE/Fr.
8	Cameron Broussard	S/Sr.	25	Elijah Jackson	CB/Jr.	55	Michael Levelle Watkins	OL/Fr.	90	Elinneus Davis	DL/Fr.
9	Thaddeus Dixon	CB/Sr.	26	Elias Johnson	CB/Fr.	56	Annas Davis	DL/Fr.	91	Isaiah Ward	DE/So.
10	Lance Holtzclaw	DE/So.	27	Vincent Holmes	S/Fr.	57	Enokk Vimahi	OL/Sr.	92	Bryce Butler	DL/Jr.
11	Alphonzo Tuputala	LB/Sr.	28	Sam Adams II	RB/Jr.	57	Anthony Ward	LB/Jr.	93	Tyrese Johnson	DE/Fr.
12	Denzel Boston	WR/So.	28	Khmori House	LB/Fr.	58	Zachary Henning	OL/Fr.	94	Jayvon Parker	DL/Jr.
12	Tristan Dunn	S/So.	30	Kayden Greene	S/Fr.	63	Roice Cleeland	OL/Fr.	95	Grady Gross	K/Jr.
13	Kamren Fabriculanan	S/Sr.	31	Luke Luchini	WR/Fr.	64	Gaard Mommelaar	OL/Jr.	95	Armon Parker	DL/So.
13	Audric Harris	WR/Fr.	31	Paul Mencke Jr.	S/Fr.	66	Landen Hatchett	OL/So.	96	Troy Petz	P/So.
14	Milton Hopkins Jr.	DE/Jr.	32	Tristan Warner	S/So.	67	Aidan Anderson	OL/Fr.	97	Logan Sagapolu	DL/Sr.
14	Shea Kuykendall	QB/So.	35	Jace Burton	WR/Fr.	68	Soane Faasolo	OL/Fr.	98	Omar Khan	DL/Fr.
15	Keith Reynolds	WR/Fr.	37	Sam Finnegan	K/Fr.	70	Jutin Hylkema	OL/Fr.	99	Russell Davis II	DL/Jr.
15	Rahim Wright II	S/Fr.	38	Jack McCallister	P/Jr.	71	Kahlee Tafai	OL/Fr.			
16	Curley Reed III	CB/Fr.	40	Anay Nagarajan	CB/Jr.	74	Drew Azzopardi	OL/So.			
16	Justice Williams	WR/Fr.	41	Deshawn Lynch	DL/Jr.	75	D'Angalo Titiali	OL/Sr.			

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Dominic DeLuca	LB/Jr.	18	Joey Schlaffer	TE/Fr.	42	Mason Robinson	DE/Fr.	74	J'ven Williams	OL/Fr.
1	Jaylen Reed	S/Sr.	18	Max Granville	DE/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Sr.	75	Matt Detisch	OL/So.
2	Liam Clifford	WR/Jr.	19	Josiah Brown	WR/Fr.	44	Jaylen Harvey	DE/Fr.	76	Mason Carlan	OL/Sr.
2	Kevin Winston Jr.	S/Jr.	19	Jack Lambert	QB/Fr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/So.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Sr.
3	Julian Fleming	WR/Sr.	20	Mylachi Williams	DE/Fr.	45	Jackson Pryts	LB/So.	79	Addison Penn	OL/Sr.
3	Jalen Kimber	CB/Sr.	21	Vaboue Toure	S/Fr.	47	Will Patton	SN/Fr.	80	Mehki Flowers	WR/So.
4	Tyseer Denmark	WR/Fr.	23	Antoine Belgrave-Shorter	CB/Fr.	47	Aidan Probst	DE/Fr.	82	Ethan Black	WR/Fr.
4	A.J. Harris	CB/So.	24.	Ta'Mere Robinson	LB/Fr.	48	Tyler Duzansky	SN/So.	83	Jake Spencer	WR/Sr.
5	Omari Evans	WR/Jr.	24	Corey Smith	RB/Fr.	49	Ben Chizmar	LB/Jr.	84	Peter Gonzalez	WR/Fr.
5	Cam Miller	CB/Jr.	25	Quinton Martin Jr.	RB/Fr.	50	Cooper Cousins	OL/Fr.	85	Luke Reynolds	TE/Fr.
6	Harrison Wallace III	WR/Jr.	26	Cam Wallace	RB/Fr.	50	Alonzo Ford Jr.	DT/Sr.	86	Jason Estrella	WR/Jr.
6	Zakee Wheatley	S/Jr.	27	Lamont Payne Jr.	CB/Fr.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Sr.	86	Aaron Enterline	WR/Fr.
7	Kaden Saunders	WR/So.	28	Zane Durant	DT/Jr.	52	Dominic Rulli	OL/So.	87	Andrew Rappleyea	WR/Fr.
7	Zion Tracy	CB/So.	28	Karson Kiesewetter	QB/Fr.	53	Nick Dawkins	OL/Sr.	88	Jerry Cross	TE/So.
8	Tyler Johnson	WR/So.	29	Audavion Collins	CB/So.	54	Xavier Gilliam	DT/Fr.	88	Sam Sifa	DT/So.
8	DaKaari Nelson	S/Fr.	30	Amiel Davis	RB/So.	54	Ian Harvie	OL/So.	89	Finn Furmanek	TE/Fr.
9	Beau Pribula	QB/So.	30	Kari Jackson	LB/Fr.	55	Chimdy Onoh	OL/Fr.	90	Liam Andrews	DT/Fr.
10	Nick Singleton	RB/So.	31	Logan Cunningham	WR/So.	56	Joseph Mupoyi	DT/Fr.	91	Dvon J-Thomas	DT/Sr.
10	Dejuan Lane	S/Fr.	31	Kolin Dinkins	CB/So.	56	JB Nelson	OL/Sr.	91	Chase Mewey	K/Jr.
11	Abdul Carter	DE/Jr.	32	Keon Wylie	LB/So.	57	Donnie Harbour	OL/Fr.	92	Andrew Dufault	SN/Fr.
12	Anthony Ivey	WR/So.	33	Dani Dennis-Sutton	DE/Jr.	58	Kaleb Artis	DT/So.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Sr.
12	Jon Mitchell	CB/Fr.	34	Tyler Holzworth	RB/Jr.	60	Logan Bahn	OL/Fr.	93	Bobby Mears	DE/Fr.
13	Kaytron Allen	RB/Jr.	35	Blaise Sokach-Minnick	SN/So.	61	Liam Horan	OL/Fr.	93	Sander Sahaydak	K/Jr.
13	Tony Rojas	LB/So.	35	Tyler Armstead	CB/Fr.	63	Alex Birchmeier	OL/Fr.	94	Ryan Barker	K/Fr.
14	Tyrece Mills	S/Jr.	36	Zuriah Fisher	DE/Jr.	64	Eagan Boyer	OL/Fr.	94	De'Andre Cook	DT/Fr.
14	Jaxon Smolik	QB/Fr.	36	Feyisayo Oluleye	WR/Sr.	65	Jim Fitzgerald	OL/So.	95	Jordan Mayer	DE/Fr.
15	Drew Allar	QB/So.	37	Beckham Dee	LB/Fr.	66	Drew Shelton	OL/Jr.	95	Riley Thompson	P/Jr.
15	Amin Vanover	DE/Sr.	38	Winston Yates	LB/Fr.	67	Henry Boehme	OL/Fr.	96	Mitchell Groh	P/Jr.
16	Khalil Dinkins	TE/So.	39	Ty Blanding	DT/Fr.	68	Anthony Donkoh	OL/Fr.	97	T.A. Cunningham	DT/Fr.
16	Elliot Washington II	CB/Fr.	39	Jashaun Green	S/So.	70	Garrett Sexton	OL/Fr.	99	Coziah Izzard	DT/So.
17	Karson Kiesewetter	QB/Fr.	40	Anthony Specca	LB/Fr.	71	Vega Ioane	OL/So.	99	Gabriel Nwosu	P/So.
17	Ethan Grunkemeyer	QB/Fr.	40	Patrick Williams	S/So.	72	Nolan Rucci	OL/Jr.			
17	Kenny Woseley Jr.	CB/Fr.	41	Kobe King	LB/Jr.	73	Caleb Brewer	OL/Fr.			

‘Appalled, excited, surprised’

Penn State students react to 2024 election results

By Tyler Nolt
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State students, like a majority of the country last night, watched the electoral race between former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris intensely.

After President-Elect Trump was announced as the winner by AP News, students shared their emotions and opinions on the incoming 47th president.

Diamond Axuzm said he was surprised by Trump’s victory, having thought more members of Gen Z would’ve shown to the polls in support for Harris.

“I was really hopeful that my generation would be a lot better about voting how they should vote given the 2020 election,” Axuzm, a third-year studying nuclear engineering, said. “So I was expecting a much, much better blue turnout than what we got.”

Axuzm said he found out about the election results before falling asleep, staying up in anticipation.

“I just watched the polls till like two o’clock on Google,” Axuzm said. “It was the AP News.”

Varun Damarla said he, like many other students, found out who won the election when checking his phone in the morning.

“I found out through the Apple News app,” Damarla, a third-year studying computer science, said. “It’s (given) me all the updates. And then this morning, I got an update that President Trump has 277 electoral college votes.”

Regarding a second Trump term, including his plans for the economy, womens’ rights and education reform, Damarla said he has concerns.

“I mean, I was honestly appalled,” Damarla said. “You look



Jacob DeLuca/Collegian

Students wait to enter Alumni Hall to vote on Nov. 5, 2024 inside the HUB-Robeson Center. President-elect Donald Trump won Pennsylvania in this year’s election after losing the vote to Joe Biden in 2020.

at the economic policies President Trump stated regarding the tariffs, I was like, OK, if you look at Nobel laureates worldwide, they were endorsing Kamala Harris’ plan. (...) There’s a lot that’s appalling, but it’s not like the other side is perfect either.”

Brooke Weinstein also said she had specific concerns about Trump’s policy plans within the topic womens’ rights.

“Girls I was talking to were all mostly Kamala, but every boy that I was talking to here, if they were in a frat or whatever, it seems like they would never vote for a woman,” Weinstein, a second-year in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, said. “Even if they didn’t like Trump, they have too much pride

to vote for a woman.”

Weinstein also said she saw an overnight change in the status of campus after Election Day.

“I went outside and my friends were telling me that it was ‘like a ghost town out there,’” Weinstein said. “I was walking back to my apartment, and everyone sort of has their heads down.”

Diego Castro said he noticed some negativity around campus, but felt that the same emotions would have been expressed by Trump supporters had Harris won.

“I know some people that feel very down, very impacted by the situation and not happy about it,” Castro, a second-year studying psychology, said. “Then I also have friends on the other side

that are very happy and very enthusiastic about the outcome.”

Castro said he felt a Trump victory wasn’t unexpected, but that the margin by which it occurred was.

“You know, personally, it didn’t really impact me too much. I mean, I didn’t vote for him, but I don’t think it’s the end of the world,” Castro said. “To be honest, I thought it’d be a little bit closer.”

Jack Scanlan said he’d describe the overall mood on campus as melancholy, and also thought it was going to be a tighter race than it was.

“I was personally very excited, because I’m a Republican, and I voted for Trump,” Scanlan, a third-year studying secondary

education in social studies, said. “When I saw they called Pennsylvania, that’s when I knew he won the election.”

Curtis Clark said he previously wasn’t sure on who was going to win the race, but was pleased with the results.

“I was honestly a little bit surprised – pleasantly surprised at that,” Clark, a fourth-year studying civil engineering, said. “I noticed while I was watching the election last night that Centre County was actually a majority red, so that was also a surprise. I feel like there’s a lot more quiet Republicans on campus than people realize.”

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PA election results

By Kaitlyn Murphy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor’s note: These are the results as of Wednesday night.

Throughout the morning, AP News reported results for the presidential election and Pennsylvania state elections.

Here are how the votes fell:

President of the United States- Donald J. Trump (Republican)

Donald Trump has been elected as the 47th president of the United States, according to an AP News report released at 5:36 a.m.

His victory in Wisconsin sent the former president over the 270 electoral vote threshold needed to win the presidency.

In the battleground state of Pennsylvania, Trump was declared the winner by AP News at 2:24 a.m. after leading the race by approximately 175,000 votes. This comes after Trump lost Pennsylvania to President Joe Biden in 2020.

AP News attributes his reclaiming of Pennsylvania to “dominance in rural parts of the state,” flipping key suburban counties to red.

Former President Trump showed interest in Centre County when he rallied support for his campaign in the Bryce Jordan Center on Oct. 27.

AP News reported calling the race in Pennsylvania due to Harris being unable to close the gap even if she won outstanding votes.

Attorney General- Dave Sunday (Republican)

AP News declared Republican Dave Sunday the winner of Pennsylvania’s attorney general race. Sunday’s website reports his

goals are to “increase public safety, promote community well-being, and fight against violence and illegal drugs.”

Sunday beat Democrat Eugene DePasquale in Centre County by approximately 5,773 votes, according to the Centre County website.

Auditor General- Tim DeFoor (Republican)

AP News declared Republican Tim DeFoor the winner of Pennsylvania’s auditor general race early this morning.

The incumbent from Harrisburg beat opponent Democrat Malcolm Kenyatta in Centre County by approximately 5,718 votes, according to the county’s website.

State Treasurer- Stacy Garrity (Republican)

AP News reported Republican incumbent Stacy Garrity was reelected as state treasurer for Pennsylvania.

In Centre County, Garrity defeated opponent Democrat Erin McClelland by approximately 6,303 votes, according to the county’s website.

Representative in Congress 15th Congressional District- Glenn “GT” Thompson (Republican)

Glenn “GT” Thompson was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives this morning, according to a release from his team.

He beat Democrat Zach Womer in the race, and held an election night celebration in the Nittany Lion Inn.

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‘I have good veins’

Penn State students participate in blood drive

By Jocelyn Bilker
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With so much on the line, it’s time to give more than just school spirit – it’s time to give blood.

With blood supplies at critically low levels across the nation, Big Ten, American Red Cross and Abbott launched the “We Give Blood” competition, pitting schools against each other in a race to collect the most blood donations.

The stakes? A \$1 million prize for the winning school to fund student or community health initiatives.

Penn State hosted the drive in Heritage Hall at the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday. Students, faculty and alumni donated blood to help push Penn State to the top of the leaderboard. Each donation scores a point for the school and helps to alleviate one of the largest blood shortages in a generation.

“One donation saves up to three lives, so the fact that students are coming up and donating blood (and) giving their time to save lives is incredible, especially since there’s been a drop in young people giving blood,” Christine Moyer, a public affairs representative with Abbott, said. “It’s really important that students are turning out to help others.”

Laura Merritt said the competition has a “significant impact.”

“Everything we do here is trying to bring out donors – whether it’s new donors, (people) who haven’t donated in a while or encouraging more young donors (since they) make up a significant part of the donor base,” Merritt, a donor recruitment representative with American Red Cross, said.

For students like Ainsley Braun, donating blood is a simple act with life-changing consequences.



Ryan Copeland/Collegian

An American Red Cross volunteer prepares vials during the blood drive at Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center on Nov. 6, 2024.

“I’ve been told I have good veins, so I might as well use them to my advantage and help those around me,” Braun, a third-year studying advertising/public relations and German, said.

Special guests from Penn State’s athletics department made appearances at the event, including Jess Mruzik from the women’s volleyball team, Eli Rice from the men’s basketball team and Sarah Brown, the head coach of the women’s gymnastics team. The event also featured a student from Penn State’s Altoona campus whose life was saved by a blood donation.

For Brown, the cause is especially personal.

“I was fortunate enough to be able to donate a kidney to my dad last year. I feel that I can quite literally give the gift of life,” Brown said. “I feel incredibly honored by every blood donation.”

Brown said athletes “show up” in competitions like “We Give Blood” because it’s in their nature.

“Our athletes are some of our healthiest, strongest and most resilient people on campus, so anytime they can get involved in something like this, they’re going to be great advocates for it,” Brown said.

Jess Mruzik, a graduate student studying for her MBA, said she believes that athletes’ involvement helps to amplify the event’s impact.

“Athletes have such a big platform. We’re able to use (it) for something bigger than ourselves,” Mruzik said. “This just adds to that sense of purpose. We’ve seen some alumni and faculty come in, and some of my coaches even asked me if they could donate blood too – it’s a whole community effort.”

More information on the “We Give Blood” competition, including the school leaderboard and donation details, is available on the Big Ten’s website.

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‘Love and trust yourself’

Breaking Bad actor Giancarlo Esposito visits Penn State

By **Carolena Bong**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State students filled Heritage Hall with excitement and anticipation as acclaimed actor Giancarlo Esposito took the stage Friday evening.

The event was organized by the Penn State Student Programming Association (SPA), which has been known for bringing influential speakers and entertainers to campus. SPA’s efforts allowed students to hear directly from Esposito, whose career and life experiences have inspired millions.

From the moment he entered, Esposito energized the room by leading a “We Are” chant that united the audience with Penn State pride.

Esposito, known for his unforgettable role as Gustavo “Gus” Fring in “Breaking Bad” and “Better Call Saul” as well as his roles in “The Mandalorian” and “The Boys,” has become one of Hollywood’s most respected talents.

Esposito began the lecture by recalling stories from his life and career. With roots in Broadway, where he began performing as a child, Esposito’s journey has been shaped by the challenges and triumphs of navigating the entertainment industry as a Black and Italian man. This unique background, he explained, profoundly influenced his approach to acting.

Reflecting on his upbringing and early career, Esposito

stressed the importance of staying true to oneself, urging students to “love and trust yourself.”

He added, “If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life.” His words resonated with students, many of whom came to the lecture not only as fans of his work but also as aspiring professionals seeking guidance on their own careers.

Among the attendees was Otávio Pinheiro, who was dressed in costume for the event. Pinheiro has a deep admiration for Esposito’s role in “The Mandalorian.”

“I’m a big ‘Mandalorian’ fan – I bought a costume before he even announced he was here, so when I saw the notification, I had to go,” Pinheiro, a fourth-year studying neuroscience, said.

For Pinheiro and many others, Esposito’s presence on campus was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear from a beloved actor who has moved countless viewers.

Brendan Santore spoke about Esposito’s impact on him through his portrayal of Gus Fring in “Breaking Bad.”

“‘Breaking Bad’ was the first thing I watched that had him in it, and he was such an impressive actor.

He conveyed his presence there, and I wanted to come out to see what he had to say today,” Santore, a second-year studying aerospace engineering, said.

Lily Weber, who has a background in musical theater, was



Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

The Student Programming Association hosts actor Giancarlo Esposito for a moderated conversation at Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center on Nov. 1, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

equally inspired by Esposito’s talk. Weber, a first-year, said she came out to see Esposito because he’s in “Breaking Bad,” and was interested in learning about his experiences on Broadway and acting on camera.

“I didn’t know too much about him, but I was inspired by a lot of the things he had to say tonight. I learned a lot, and it was a really good experience – I’m glad I came,” Weber said.

Esposito delved into his process for character preparation, describing the rigorous research he undertakes to bring each role to life.

For him, embodying Gus Fring was a “monumental experience” that required meticulous attention to detail. He explained how he sought to avoid stereotypes by portraying Gus as a fully multifaceted character.

He also discussed the importance of imagination and courage in his craft. He encourages students to find their own voices and pursue their dreams with conviction.

Esposito’s words left a lasting impression on his audience. He moved them to approach life and work with passion and authenticity.

For Penn State students, the

night was more than a lecture – it was a call to embrace their own identities and strive for excellence. His visit left the audience inspired and entertained, but it was his final moments that truly captivated the room.

Just before leaving, he flashed a mischievous grin and slipped into character as Gus, delivering the infamous line from Breaking Bad: “I will kill your wife. I will kill your son. I will kill your infant daughter,” sending a wave of laughter and applause through the crowd.

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Courtesy of Sam Calus

Hamilton Hall Fourth Floor poses for a photo in their dorm. Hamilton Hall is located in West Halls in University Park, Pa.

Floor 4 forever

By **Kiera Ginn**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The colonial-style brick buildings of Penn State’s West Halls are home to many Penn State students. Built in 1950, Hamilton Hall houses about 620 of these students and will be officially renovated in the coming years.

One group of randomly paired first-years who lived in Hamilton Hall in 2018 said their experience was “one of the best,” and reminisced about their close relationships developed on the floor.

Sam Calus lived on the fourth floor of Hamilton her first year. Calus said the layout of the floor led to a smaller number of people living there than the typical dorm.

“Because of the positioning with Waring Commons, it bisected where a normal floor would be, which ended up being only 12 rooms, so about 24 girls,” Calus, a 2022 alumna, said.

Calus said the size of the floor helped build a bond between the girls living there.

“The floor was so small it allowed us to get to know the people better, and we all became fast friends, and we are still friends to this day,” Calus said.

2018 Hamilton fourth floor resident Victoria LaRow said the variety of personalities and the friendliness of her floormates provided the foundations for close friendships.

“It gave us a really nice mix, people from all different places and people from all different majors,” LaRow, a 2022 alumna, said. “It was kind of nice in that way. We had people from all over, so we were all definitely looking to make friends.”

Summer Brown, another floor resident and 2022 alumna, said she had a unique dorm experience due to those around her.

“It was the people; our personalities are so different, but since we shared a common space, it kind of made it unique in a way,” Brown said.

Calus said she has many memories of her time on the floor and considers it very special.

“My friends and I were studying for a chem test and

slowly losing our minds, (and it) turned into learning how to do the worm on the dorm floor,” Calus said.

Brown said COVID-19, which cut her second year short, gave her an appreciation for her first-year dorm floor and the friends that resulted.

“COVID happened our sophomore year, and because we were able to have a friend group off the bat, it’s why we stayed friends through COVID when it was so hard to make friends,” Brown said.

LaRow said the floormates remained close throughout their time at Penn State and continued to make plans with each other throughout all four years.

“From freshman year, we were all such good friends that after (freshman year) we would see each other for activities, or make plans to go get lunch together,” LaRow said.

Following their year of on-campus housing, many of the girls continued to live with each other.

“I lived with my freshman year roommate, Summer, all four years,” LaRow said. “Sam came and lived with Summer and I our junior and senior year off campus.”

Since graduating, Brown said the floor has stayed in contact with each other in numerous ways.

“We have a group chat, so we send updates in that,” Brown said. “Sam created something called a Letterloop where we all have our 9-to-5s, and we send emails back and forth.”

LaRow said the floor has also reunited with visits to campus.

“Since college, there have been weekends where we have all gone back for a game day,” LaRow said.

LaRow said her first-year friend group remains some of her closest friends and had a positive impact on her Penn State experience as a whole.

“Being friends from the beginning of college and seeing all the way through is really fun,” LaRow said.

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Dulce Luca delights

By **Ava Krysko**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A cozy atmosphere, a friendly staff and delicious treats greet customers when stepping into Dulce Luca, a cafe at 216 E Calder Way in downtown State College.

Open daily from 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Dulce Luca serves a variety of desserts and drinks. With comfy couches, an array of board games and a clean interior, this cafe embodies feelings of relaxation.

Owner Eman Ahmed described the cafe as spacious with a lot of room for students to study, as it offers sizable tables with outlets underneath and free Wi-Fi.

“It’s a friendly place for people to socialize,” Ahmed said.

Ahmed, a foreign-trained dentist from Egypt, came up with the idea to create the cafe when she had to stay home from work during the pandemic. Her husband owns many restaurants in the area, such as Yallah Taco, and encouraged her to start her own.

“That’s how it all started,” Ahmed said. “Just baking stuff for family during COVID-19. Everyone liked it and encouraged me to have my own cafe.”

Ahmed said that her favor-

ite part of Dulce Luca is the togetherness it brings to the community.

“My favorite thing about the cafe is that we all feel like family together, and you feel relaxed with the colors and atmosphere,” Ahmed said. “You never feel tension here. For me, it’s my second home.”

Dulce Luca boasts a diverse menu, from cookies and croissants to tres leches cakes and cheesecakes. The cafe also serves an array of drinks, including coffees and aguas frescas.

According to Ahmed, the most popular item on the menu is the kataifi and pistachio croissant, a pastry that blends shredded dough with pistachio filling.

“It’s one of our best sellers,” Ahmed said. “I believe we are the only place that sells it.”

There are more innovative desserts coming to Dulce Luca soon. A dessert similar to an apple crisp is expected to debut in November.

“We are introducing ‘rumble crumble,’” Ahmed said. “It’s either apple or mixed berries topped with crumbles or custard, depending on your choice.”

Polo Valdez, a Dulce Luca employee, said that Dulce Luca is a brand that people will fall in love with, just like he has.

“One day, it’s going to be a big

brand,” Valdez said. “That’s why I love to work here.”

Another great thing about the cafe for Valdez is the overall atmosphere.

“I like to be here because it’s very relaxing. It’s a good environment,” Valdez said. “Even when I don’t have a shift, I stay here and work on my computer.”

Ji Kwok, a fourth-year studying neuroscience, said that she would recommend Dulce Luca because of its “exotic” menu.

“It has bakery items, tiramisu and ice cream,” Kwok said. “I really like its crookie menu (a combination of croissant and cookie).”

Kwok said that if more people knew what it was like inside Dulce Luca, it could attract a lot of customers.

“There aren’t that many places around here that have these types of bakery items,” Kwok said. “I feel like it would be good if more people knew about it and came over.”

Ahmed said that she encourages students to come into Dulce Luca to study or simply have a treat and time to relax.

“If you’re craving anything sweet, you’ll find it here,” Ahmed said.

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Stella John/Collegian

A neon sign hangs at the entrance of Dulce Luca on East Calder Way in University Park, Pa. Dulce Luca is known for its wide selection of homemade, sweet treats.

PSU names Title IX Coordinator

By **Jonathon Chiu**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Kristi Patrickus was named Penn State’s new Title IX coordinator as announced in a Penn State news release Tuesday. This will become effective Nov. 4, 2024, with Patrickus replacing Ashley Owens, who has held the role on an interim basis since Feb. 14.

“Kristi’s expertise in Title IX and her proven dedication to fostering safe, equitable environments make her an invaluable addition to our team,” Amber

Grove, chief ethics and compliance officer at Penn State, said in the release. “Her leadership will be instrumental in strengthening our commitment to providing comprehensive resources, prevention education, and support for our community, ensuring that we uphold our mission of integrity, respect and inclusivity.”

Patrickus’ responsibilities as Title IX coordinator will include enhancing Penn State’s services, education and outreach for students, faculty and staff on preventing sexual misconduct and

harassment, according to the release.

Patrickus will also oversee Penn State’s responses to reports and investigations related to Title IX.

According to the release, Patrickus has previously completed work for the Association for Student Conduct Administration (ASCA), where she chaired the Title IX Task Force and Working Group and gave frequent presentations and legal updates on issues related to Title IX.

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TWIRLS & TIARAS

Penn State's Makayla Ober named 2024 Majorette Queen of America

By Jocelyn Bilker
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Makayla Ober was named the 2024 Majorette Queen of America, the highest honor possible from the Drum Majorettes of America competition.

Her journey began at 2 years old, culminating in a title she'd dreamed of for nearly two decades.

As a 6-year-old, she won her first national title, the Miniature Majorette Princess of America. At 12, she won the Petite Majorette Princess of America title.

The path to national titles, however, wasn't without its challenges. Between the ages of 13 and 17, she earned second place each year, a result that left her grappling with self-doubt.

"It takes a lot when you get second so many times, but I'm very persistent," Ober, a second-year studying elementary and early childhood education, said. "I wouldn't have chosen to compete for (Majorette Queen of America) one more year if I hadn't pushed through the last mental block that I had."

As a competitive twirler, the

mental aspect of the sport became just as challenging as the physical one. Each year, Ober found herself standing just shy of the top spot, a constant reminder of the perseverance required to succeed at the highest level.

"It just really challenged me mentally ... can I keep taking these mental punches?" Ober said.

Despite these hurdles, she kept pushing forward.

"I told myself, win or lose, (2023) was going to be my last year," Ober said.

After delivering what she considered her best nationals performance ever, Ober came in as the runner-up once again and felt defeated by the result.

That heartbreak fueled the fire for her final year of competition.

"I knew I was coming to Penn State to continue twirling, but I always had that 'what if' lingering in my mind," Ober said.

That "what if" turned into one last push. She returned to the competition circuit with renewed determination, and in 2024, she finally achieved her goal. Makayla Ober became the Majorette Queen of America.

The moment she won was

extremely emotional, a culmination of years of hard work and perseverance.

"I sobbed when they called my name. I could barely stand," Ober said. "That was ugly crying."

Her victory not only marked the apex of her twirling career but also solidified her place as a role model within the twirling community.

"Being a role model is super important to me," Ober said. "It was the most accomplished thing I've ever done in twirling."

The support she received after the victory was just as overwhelming, with messages flooding in from students and fellow twirlers alike. She understood the weight of the title and the influence she would have in the twirling world.

"This was the goal I wanted to achieve," Ober said.

Alongside her achievements, Ober has made a seamless transition into college life at Penn State, where she's part of the Blue Band's twirling team, Touch of Blue.

"My family was a huge Penn State family, and I just loved the atmosphere when I came for the Blue-White game in my junior year of high school," Ober said.

The energy of the stadium, the bond between the band members and the spirit of the school resonated with her to the point where Penn State was her top choice for twirling and the college experience.

Ober is a leader in her own right, not just because of her talents but also her ability to inspire others.

"She brings so much light and energy to the team," Chelsea Halterman, a member of Touch of Blue, said. "She's a really positive person, and she's always been super dedicated."

Halterman, a fourth-year studying biomedical engineering, said teamwork is one of the most important aspects of twirling.

"We do exchanges where we're throwing to each other, so we have to practice stuff like that



Courtesy of Makayla Ober

Penn State majorette Makayla Ober wins 2024 Majorette Queen of America after beginning her journey in competitive twirling at 2 years old.

— that's literally teamwork," Halterman said, referencing Ober's ability to work seamlessly within the team.

Ober's twirling career has also been shaped by the guidance of several influential figures, particularly Paula McAdoo, her childhood coach.

"She really values the importance of hard work and paying attention to detail," McAdoo said. "She's proof that dreams don't have deadlines."

McAdoo, who has known Ober since she was young, saw her potential from an early age.

"She was just born into it," McAdoo said with a smile, recalling how Ober's mother was one of her first students. "When she won (Majorette Queen of America), we all won."

Ober's current coach at Penn State, April Gable, described Ober as "ambitious" with infectious energy.

"We'll get to a special part in the song and everybody does something different. Makayla is throwing the hardest trick on the field that game," Gable said. "She's so able to keep it within herself, but as soon as she's able

to bring it out, everybody's gonna see it."

Ober's former teammate and close friend Sophia Lutz, who twirls at Clemson, described her as "the most positive person" with "a ton of drive and determination."

Lutz, who won the Majorette Queen of America title at 16 years old, believes Ober's perseverance was a driving force in her eventual success.

"She would do anything to make her dreams come true," Lutz said. "And she did it."

Now that Ober has achieved her ultimate goal, she's turning her attention to the future — both as a performer and as a mentor. At Penn State, she has already begun teaching and sharing her knowledge with younger students, just as she was once guided by others.

"She loves the kids and wants the best for them," Lutz, who has taught at a studio back at home with Ober, said. "That's what makes her a great competitor and a great teacher."

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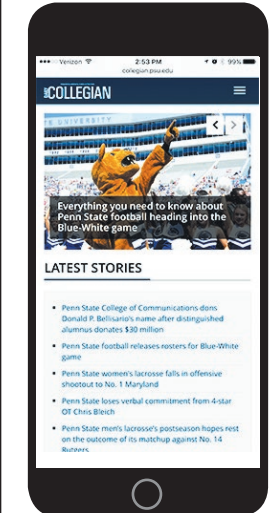


Courtesy of Makayla Ober

Majorette Queen of America Makayla Ober performs with the Blue Band's twirling team, Touch of Blue.

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- Across**

1 Roman love god
5 "Ick!"
10 Jezebel's husband
14 Barbershop
15 Related maternally
16 Buggy terrain
17 It's softer than gypsum
18 Golden Horde member
19 Pond organism
20 Louisiana swamp
22 Bit of slander
24 Court cry
25 Superhero accessory
27 Ethically indifferent
29 Animal fibers
32 Automobile sticker fig.
34 Prattle
35 Balm ingredient
36 John's "Pulp Fiction" co-star
37 Supply's buddy
40 Party preparation
41 Lazybones
43 Fish story
44 Undisturbed
46 Sea eagle
47 It gets a licking
48 Hard-rock center
- 49 Madras Mr.
50 Scots heather
51 Look up to
53 Dog command
55 Point, Guam
56 Tabloid fodder
58 Keyed up
61 Postal delivery
63 Boot camp boss
65 Lacking slack
67 Japanese soup
68 Foil relatives
69 "Amazing Grace" ending
70 Quartz variety
71 Verse
72 Skin problem
- Down**

1 Pertinent
2 Ancient kingdom east of the Dead Sea
3 Spicy stew
4 Do the planet some good
5 Mom's words to a child
6 H.S. biology topic
7 Feedbag fill
8 "Hogan's Heroes" setting
9 Emergency supply
10 Oklahoma city
- 11 Disturbance
12 Heavenly host?
13 Tuckered out
21 Alliance created in 1948 (Abbr.)
23 "___ and out"
26 Austen novel
28 Zodiac animal
29 Dry riverbed
30 Lena of "Chocolat"
31 Accident prone person's cry
33 Harness racer
36 Eskimo knife
37 Hibernation site
38 Chihuahua child
39 Regard
41 Strait-laced
42 Malayan dagger
45 Suffix with ideal
47 Of an obscure nature
49 See 12 Down
50 Reddish brown
51 From the top
52 Stair part
54 Not those
55 Bullets and such
57 Rare trick-taker
59 "Piece of cake!"
62 Bagel topper
64 Sparkler
66 Hanoi holiday

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Sudoku

7		9	5				6	8
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MY VIEW | NOAH ABEREGG

Trump's victory will spark new beginnings

"We will make America great again."

This was the thought running through tens of millions of Americans' heads as they voted for Donald Trump to be the 47th president of the United States.

This dream became a reality early on Wednesday, as the Associated Press called the presidential race in favor of Trump.

Swing state dominance from the Republican candidate and upsets in the U.S. Senate led to a Republican majority, as Trump became victorious with early morning wins in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

But it wasn't just a victory for the former and future president of the United States. It was a much-needed momentum boost for the GOP, extending its margins in many red states and bringing some long-time blue



Matt Freed/AP

President-elect Donald Trump dances after speaking at a campaign rally at PPG Paints Arena on Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, in Pittsburgh.

states closer to the middle.

Trump did it beyond all odds, defying all polls and predictions.

After 34 drawn out and inflated felony charges, life-threatening rhetoric from the Democrats and not one, but two assassination attempts, the average person

would have dropped out.

But Trump kept fighting.

He didn't have to keep doing it. He could've protected his life, his identity and his name. But he fought for the American people to make America great again.

The world saw what four years

under Trump was like.

Outside of a short period during the Great Recession, gas prices were the lowest since 2004. The U.S. didn't enter into any wars under Trump, and the number of military deaths was lower than any administration

in the 21st century. The U.S. had improved relations with North Korea, China and Russia, and Trump kept them in lock.

Then followed President Joe Biden, who saw the highest fuel price in over 30 years, record amounts of inflation and more foreign involvements for the U.S.

When asked what she would do differently than Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris said "there is not a thing that comes to mind."

America dodged a bullet by electing Trump over Harris and will likely see similar success echoing his first term in office.

Trump made America great in 2016, and in a second term in 2024, he will make America great again.

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Cartoons by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | ETHAN CAPITANO

Democrats to enter 4 years of uncertainty

Until Tuesday night, I had faith in Kamala Harris and Tim Walz's ability to win, in justice's



protection of the rule of law and in America's ability to look beyond unguaranteed economic betterment in favor of the freedoms of marginalized groups and all Americans alike.

I hoped enough people — especially young men — would draw the line at "rapist," "felon" and insurrection denial.

I hoped that voters would champion women's and transgender peoples' agency, well-being and health, and recognize that all humans deserve to better their lives in what I now cautiously consider one of the best countries in the world.

Maybe I'm misguided and blindly optimistic, or more likely, like many Americans, simply hoped to see codified equality for all. But yet again, it appears this philosophy falls short against rhetorical fear-mongering about immigrants, transgender athletes, abortion

access and a corrupt, woke deep-state.

In no way am I denying the economic struggles of many Americans as a result of post-pandemic inflation and how Donald Trump's supposed economic proficiency — despite his several bankruptcies — offers a possible solution to this problem, but I believe prioritizing this disregards historically oppressed groups.

I don't condone hating individuals for casting their vote based on economic reasons; however, I challenge those who did to consider how others face compounding systemic issues — like racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and more — on top of economic inequality.

I recognize I based my vote on America's human rights this election and how this fails in the face of the United States' perpetuation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, but it begs the question of why others

didn't do the same.

While Harris didn't wholeheartedly defend innocent Palestinians and Lebanese people by condemning the acts of Israel or supporting an arms embargo, I believe Trump will only worsen the crisis and favor Israel in the event of a ceasefire because of his historical relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu.

In the end, I'm sure Harris' stance on Israel was only one nail in the coffin, along with other factors that I regrettably assume include her race and gender. Harris's major

downfall may have resulted from the moderate stances and appeals to conservative voters, which alienated millions of progressive voters.

The Democratic Party is now more unpopular than in the last two elections, illustrated by Harris's loss in the popular vote. In the future, the Democrats must appeal to progres-

sive voters and not cherry-pick human rights to cast a wider net.

The Democrats are far from perfect, but I saw a glimmer of hope in the Harris-Walz campaign. Evidently, they lost touch with the average American, spread themselves too thin to attract moderate voters and lost more progressive votes in the process.

Ultimately, Trump's victory emboldens supporters of his violent rhetoric and seemingly validates his misleading narratives regarding his prosecutions and legacy.

Now more than ever, we must use our voices and actions to defend others' rights and autonomies, the validity of unbiased media dissemination and accessible education.

I hope I am wrong with my assertions, but only time will tell.

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Made for Penn State

By Chase Fisher
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Destiny is an interesting word. For some, it means everything happens for a reason. For others, it's a force that guides them in a certain direction — one that, no matter what you do, you'll end up where you're meant to be.

It's clear that in the case of Jimmy Dowd Jr., landing at Penn State was always his destiny.

From the moment Dowd stepped on the ice, his father, Jim, taught him the ins and outs of hockey as his coach.

As the son of an NHL journeyman, Dowd had to relocate many times at a young age. He spent time in Minnesota, Germany and Chicago throughout the first few years of his life before settling down and returning to his hometown of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey.

"(My Dad) helped me build a solid foundation," Dowd said. "He taught me how to be a leader, how to play the game and how to gel with my teammates. He taught me everything I know hockey-wise, and I thank him for that."

After 15 years under his father's hockey tutelage, Dowd went off to play in developmental leagues before beginning his recruitment process in 2016.

In his first year in AAA, the right-handed defenseman put his name on the map, recording 30 points and 26 assists in 51 games.

Dowd's impressive numbers caught the eye of many colleges, but none of that mattered after coach Guy Gadowsky brought Jimmy and his dad up for a visit.

"We came (to Penn State) and were like, 'This is ridiculous,'" Dowd said. "This is college hockey."

Two weeks later, the rest of the Dowd family made the trip to Penn State, and that was when it all came into place. Dowd was offered a full-ride scholarship shortly after receiving a tour of the campus.

In a decision that takes some prospects months to de-



Tyler Mantz/Collegian file photo

Defenseman Jimmy Dowd Jr. controls the puck during the men's hockey game against Wisconsin on Feb. 25, 2023

cide, Dowd's answer was an immediate yes.

"I was like, 'Mom, Dad, I'm going here,'" Dowd said. "There was not a thought in my head the whole time I was here where I was like, 'I wonder what Ohio State or Northeastern is like.' When I visited, I was shocked and amazed by everything. If I was fortunate to play college hockey here, it would be a dream come true."

Following his commitment to Penn State, Dowd played one season in the North American Hockey League, tallying 10 points in 40 games before joining the USHL — the only Tier I junior league under USA hockey.

Dowd thrived in the USHL, recording 40 points and an eye-catching +38 net rating throughout his tenure. In the 2019-20 season, he ranked second in the USHL in plus/minus at +29, while playing in a league full of future superstars.

Even at such a young age, Dowd excelled in a league that has featured NHL players like Auston Matthews, Matthew Tkachuk, Jack Hughes and his former teammate, Owen Power.

Dowd entered Penn State during the COVID year in 2020-21, where eight of his 30 games were

canceled. He appeared in 20 contests, recording eight assists, which showcased his elite hockey IQ.

"Everybody can see the IQ, he thinks the game at an extremely high level," Gadowsky said. "I would put his IQ up against anybody in any league, and that's what we were attracted to at first. There's a lot of things that, when it comes to seeing the game, you can't really teach, and he's got that. He's always had the vision on the ice."

The first two years in State College weren't the most successful for Penn State, as it had a combined 27-32-1 record and failed to make the NCAA Tournament in both years. Year 3, however, was a completely different story.

After two years of falling short, Dowd and Penn State went on arguably the best run in program history, falling just a goal shy of the Frozen Four. Despite a heart-breaking end to a terrific season, Dowd said one weekend during that year was the highlight of his Penn State career.

"Beating (Michigan) when they were first in the country," Dowd said. "The whole weekend was fun, just playing in front of our crowd."

After experiencing some of

the highest of highs in collegiate hockey, Dowd's fourth season with Penn State had some of the lowest of lows. Dowd suffered an injury in the opener of his senior season, missing the next six games. When he returned, the Nittany Lions' season plummeted, going 10-16-3 and missing out on an NCAA Tournament bid.

Despite a disappointing year for the program, Dowd said returning to Penn State for the following season was a no-brainer.

"I was thinking, 'I don't want to leave this place unless I sign an NHL deal,'" Dowd said. "Everything Penn State embodies, there's no other school in the country like it. I've grown so much as a person, a player and a student. I was not leaving this place."

While Dowd believes Penn State is the perfect place for him, Gadowsky feels the same way.

"I promise you there is no one else that loves Penn State more than Jimmy," Gadowsky said. "Anywhere you go in town, you can ask anybody in any store, 'Hey, you know any hockey players,' and I bet if they do, it would be Jimmy. He loves Penn State and represents this program extremely well."

The love and passion that Dowd brings to Penn State flows through the locker room. Simon Mack, Dowd's teammate for four seasons, said energy was the first thing he thought of when his name came to mind.

"I've been so fortunate to play with Jimmy," Mack said. "He's such a character, and everybody loves him. He's so easy to get along with. He's one of the most positive guys I know, and that really radiates to the rest of the guys."

In addition to the chemistry Dowd brings to the club, he has some eye-catching numbers on the stat sheet.

Just seven games into his 2024-25 campaign, Dowd's 54 career assists trails only Cole Huhts' 61 for most assists by a defenseman in program history. Additionally, the fifth-year senior is second in Penn State history in total points from a blue-liner with 65 — only 13 behind Huhts' program-leading 78.

In a program that's featured 16 NHL draft picks, the New Jersey native is one season away from putting his name into the history books.

What will be next for Dowd when his five-year Penn State career comes to an end following this season?

"I'd love to sign a contract in the American League," Dowd said. "I'm working toward it every day. If it's meant to be, it happens. If not, I can figure out where else to go, whether I can sign in the East Coast League and hopefully make my way up."

If playing hockey doesn't work out, Dowd expressed his desire to coach and mentor younger players.

Dowd may leave his tenure at Penn State holding program records, but his legacy in State College surpasses just numbers on a stat sheet.

"And (Jimmy) does it all with a smile on his face," Mack said.

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Flanker and fly-half

Penn State rugby phenoms to continue pro careers in New Orleans

By Baxter Gimer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Nittany Lions drafted No. 6 and No. 18 overall are moving on from Penn State, but they'll do so together.

Although Aidan King and Dalton Musselman come from different backgrounds and positions, they'll join forces in New Orleans representing the city's professional men's rugby team, NOLA Gold.

"I love the staff that they have there," King said. "To be honest, I'm excited just to play rugby at the next level."

Musselman started his collegiate career the season before King arrived on campus. When King came on the scene, Musselman took him under his wing and introduced him to State College life.

"From the beginning, I knew (Aidan) was gonna be a good player," Musselman said.

He was right.

At 6-foot-2 and 220 pounds, King's booming presence earned him two team MVP awards during his four-year career at Penn State.

In union rugby, the positions dictate the number a player wears. King is the openside flanker, so he wears No. 7, and Musselman is the fly-half, so he wears No. 10.

While union rugby is 15-on-15, there's a quicker variation of the sport called 7s. Both versions are ruthless and rowdy, but 7s requires fast-paced awareness and hustle.

The 23-year-old Musselman is also no stranger to dominating on the pitch, something NOLA Gold assistant general manager Nicholas Colling noticed during the draft process.

"(Musselman) enters the squad as a utility-type player,

able to play a few spots," Colling said. "If he can develop quickly, this versatility will make him very valuable."

Musselman began playing rugby in high school after his brother influenced him to play. By 2022, he was representing his country on the USA 7s national team.

A few weeks before getting drafted, Musselman's club team, National Athletic Village, won the 2024 USA Club 7s Championship in Wisconsin.

"His extensive and high-level experience in 7s is very exciting," Colling said. "(Musselman) has already reached the level of representing the USA Eagles at an international level."

Even though King is a forward and Musselman is a back, their games are complementary.

"The 10-7 connection and how we played was big in our defense," King said. "We're actually quite good friends. We've been super close and only gotten closer."

Although King was born in the United States, his rugby journey began at 10 when his family moved from Anchorage, Alaska, to Brisbane, Australia.

Now 22 years old, King and his former Penn State teammate will suit up in New Orleans' white and gold to play together at the professional level.

"(King) has been on our radar for a few years now," Colling said. "He has a level of skill that not many players in the U.S. have at his age."

Musselman's childhood was more sedentary. The 5-foot-10, 195-pound Coatesville, Pennsylvania, native has been there all his life.

While both players eagerly anticipate the start of their first professional season in February, their time spent in State College has left a lasting

impression on them.

"I'll probably miss the team the most," King said. "You go from seeing them every day to not really seeing them at all."

King said the rugby guys lived near each other and have developed as a group. The relationships they built may be left behind, but Musselman said he's looking forward to his new teammates waiting for him in New Orleans.

"Veteran players will throw an arm around our young guys and help them grow," Colling said. "The environment is like a family."

Former Penn Stater Malcolm May is one of these seasoned athletes. The flanker has capped over 50 games for NOLA Gold, making him one of the longest-tenured players in organization history.

The duo has already achieved magnificent accomplishments throughout their careers, but their favorite memory as Nittany Lions is the same: beating Navy.

"They've probably been a top team for a while now," Musselman said. "To compete against a team like that is pretty awesome."

Penn State men's rugby participates in the College Rugby Association of America's D1A Rugby East division. Powerhouse squads like Life University and Navy are two of the seven that make up the group.

In 2021 — the year they took down Navy — Musselman and King were part of a Penn State team that made the National Collegiate Rugby Championship.

As they leave their collegiate career behind, a new squad awaits the duo in New Orleans.

"We can't wait for Dalton and Aidan to join us," Colling said. "When they get down here on the bayou, they will quickly feel that southern hospitality."

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Ryan Copeland/Collegian

Penn State men's soccer stands during the national anthem against Wisconsin on Oct. 26, 2024

Fall from grace

By Jorge Chacon
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State entered the 2024 season riding a wave of optimism following a stand-out 2023 campaign before falling in the Big Ten Tournament final.

This offseason, however, brought significant change, as the team lost several key players who had been instrumental to its success such as Khris Shakes, Femi Awodesu and Peter Mangione, all Big Ten award winners.

The 2024 season began with a tough road test against then-No. 1 Clemson. Penn State fell 3-0 — a result that highlighted the adjustments the team needed to make.

Back at home, the Nittany Lions rebounded with a narrow 2-1 win over Army, showing glimpses of potential. However, inconsistency soon set in, as the team lost four of its next five games.

The first significant period of adversity for Penn State came during a three-game losing streak, highlighted by a 5-0 loss to Ohio State — a reminder of just how far away the Nittany Lions were from the upper echelon of Big Ten teams.

However, the Nittany Lions showed resilience, responding to their struggles with a five-game unbeaten streak. Going 3-0-2 during that stretch, they picked up eight points in conference play and placed themselves back into postseason contention.

Penn State's ability to bounce back revealed its potential, and for a moment, it seemed the team had found a balance between offensive ambition and defensive solidity, but the final stretch of games proved unforgiving.

Three of its last four matches were on the road, presenting a difficult test.

Starting with an away game against Indiana, Penn State hoped to extend its unbeaten run. Despite a solid effort, their momentum was broken with a 2-0 loss.

With three games left, Penn State still controlled its postseason fate but needed four points to secure a spot in the Big Ten Tournament. This task became increasingly challenging, as the Nittany Lions struggled to maintain their form.

Penn State was handed twodefeats on the road against Washington, and Wisconsin at home left its postseason hopes hanging by a thread.

Coach Jeff Cook's squad had its playoff hopes crushed quickly, as Northwestern took a two-goal lead in the opening stages of the match, dealing a significant blow to Penn State's chances. Though the blue and white managed to score a consolation goal, the match ended 4-1, marking the end of its 2024 campaign.

Yet, there are positives to take away. Several young players stepped into larger roles and gained valuable experience, setting a foundation for the future. The team's midseason resilience, particularly during the five-game unbeaten run, showed that the Nittany Lions are capable of bouncing back from adversity.

With many of these young and experienced players expected to return in 2025, the lessons learned this season could prove invaluable.

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Tackling fame

Former Penn State receiver Cam Sullivan-Brown wins 3rd place in ‘Big Brother’

Gabrielle Marston
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Cam Sullivan-Brown, a former Penn State football player from Bowie, Maryland., captured the hearts of audiences nationwide as he made it to the finals of “Big Brother” Season 26.

Sullivan-Brown entered the “Big Brother” house with a plan to dominate through competitions.

“My initial game plan was to come in and be a comp beast,” Sullivan-Brown said.

As the season went on, he adapted, focusing more on social connections.

“I had to switch up my strategy,” Sullivan-Brown said. “I wanted to be a really good social player, so I leaned heavily on my social skills.”

He credits his mental preparation to his time spent on Beaver Stadium’s field, a skill he found useful throughout the show.

“The biggest thing that prepared me for being in the (‘Big Brother’) house was just mental toughness,” Sullivan-Brown said.

Facing high-pressure situations isn’t new to Sullivan-Brown, having played for one of the top football schools in the country.

“There’s a lot of pressure playing for Penn State. You have to be mentally tough to beat the person across from you, and to play in front of hundreds of thousands of people every weekend,” Sullivan-Brown said.

Playing football at Penn State helped him develop skills crucial for his success on the show.

“I prepared myself mentally to go into the (‘Big Brother’) house and handle things with class, whether they went my way or not,” Sullivan-Brown said.

“That’s something I’ve learned from playing football at Penn State.”

His ability to handle stress carried over into the strategic



Ella Freda/Collegian file photo

Wide receiver Cam Sullivan-Brown poses for a fan photo after Penn State football’s game against Villanova at Beaver Stadium, Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021. Nittany Lions beat the Wildcats 38-17.

and social challenges of the “Big Brother” house, where contestants compete for dominance in a psychologically demanding environment.

Despite falling short of the grand prize, Sullivan-Brown has no regrets, and instead has a newfound gratitude for his loved ones.

“The most significant personal lesson I learned would probably be to cherish my time with family and friends,” Sullivan-Brown said. “In the house, you’re not in contact with friends or family, so I’ve been more intentional and present after leaving.”

Although living in isolation was challenging, Sullivan-Brown said being without his phone was “much easier” than he expected.

“Without social media and all of that, I was chilling. It helped that the house had such good guests,” Sullivan-Brown said.

On top of being a charismatic addition to the cast, Sullivan-Brown’s ability to form alliances while looking out for his own

gain helped him greatly.

“I was very smart with my words,” Sullivan-Brown said. “Every day, I’d wake up and remind myself to be mindful, not to let personal relationships cloud game relationships.”

Feeling the pressure to stay focused in the house, he said he always made decisions “best for me” when it was game time.

“You grow close to these people, but with \$750,000 on the line, eviction night decisions were always about the game,” Sullivan-Brown said.

Sullivan-Brown’s supporters applauded his ability to balance strategy with establishing genuine connections.

Aaron Gilbert, one of Sullivan-Brown’s close friends, said he did “great” on the show.

“He used his life experiences to connect with all kinds of people, regardless of skin color or religion,” Gilbert said. “He socialized his way to the top three.”

Even though he hasn’t watched

the entire show yet, Sullivan-Brown thought “Big Brother” portrayed his laid-back and chill persona well.

“I loved my time on the show. I didn’t make a fool of myself, so I’m pretty happy with it,” Sullivan-Brown said.

He found the memes about himself especially funny, including his memorable catchphrase, “Shout out all my dawgs at the crib.”

Sullivan-Brown mentioned linking up with friends afterward, and that one of his main friends came to the finale night with his dad, which he appreciated.

However, Gilbert said the first half of the season didn’t show how “talkative and outgoing” Sullivan-Brown is. Gilbert said the show sometimes focused more on other people, which distracted from his friend’s actual personality.

Still, by the end of the season, he was assured that the show “got the gist of the real Cam.”

Reflecting on his performance, Sullivan-Brown acknowledged

that the only thing he wished he had done differently was win a competition in the final “Head of Household” event.

“I would’ve loved to win Part 1 or Part 2. But other than that, I think I played a very good game,” he said.

According to Dillon Powell, another good friend, Sullivan-Brown has a bright future ahead. Powell said he knows Sullivan-Brown very well and mentioned he wants to be an “entertainer,” expressing hope that he enters the “right rooms” to expand his skills.

“I hope to see him on another reality TV show like ‘The Challenger’ or ‘Love Island,’” Gilbert said.

Being a music lover at heart, Sullivan-Brown shared his excitement about catching up on new music he missed while in the house, highlighting his love for R&B.

“I just didn’t want to be three months behind all the stuff that everybody knows,” Sullivan-Brown said.

His first thoughts after leaving the house were about the latest R&B albums and the update on the Kendrick Lamar and Drake beef. He also confessed to enjoying pop music, mentioning Sabrina Carpenter’s recent album as a “pleasant surprise.”

Despite his busy schedule, he plans to catch up on the music he missed, saying he’s still “diving into the catalog.”

Sullivan-Brown’s journey on “Big Brother” Season 26 has proven his adaptability and mental strength, skills crafted during his time as a Penn State football player.

Regardless of not receiving the ultimate prize, Sullivan-Brown gained valuable lessons and genuine connections that left a lasting impression on viewers.

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Matthew Kemper/Collegian

A group of Penn State club cross country runners run during practice outside of the Recreation Building on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

Club cross country talks teamwork

Sophie Ambrosina
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State’s cross country club team is one of over 50 club sports available to students.

Within all club sports, four elected leaders are referred to as the “core four.” In cross country, these are the president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

President Hannah Bauer described her main duty as keeping the organization in close contact with the university. For instance, she’s tasked with ensuring everything behind the scenes is registered according to Penn State’s rules.

“I’m the main contact person between club sports, the university and our team,” Bauer, a fourth-year studying biochemistry and molecular biology, said.

Bauer said she also organizes seminars for the team, which are educational but not directly related to running. Their most recent one last week was about athlete mental health.

Secretary Karis Blagden said she’s responsible for the team’s social media pages, meeting minutes, merch and other events.

There are also four captains who represent the team, Lillie Nye being one of them.

“The main things we do are hyping everybody up and making new people feel welcome before our meets,” Nye, a second-year studying public relations, said. “We like to plan a lot of pasta parties and team morale stuff. We plan team picnics, and at the end of the year, we organize a banquet.”

While competitive racing isn’t a requirement, the team takes part in various races throughout the fall season.

Club cross country competes

against other Division I club cross country teams, as well as local Division II varsity teams. Usually, these races culminate with a trip to the National Intercollegiate Running Club Association Nationals, which will take place next weekend.

Blagden, a third-year studying environmental resource management, said the team stays at a hotel the night before the meet, which is “a ton of fun” because of the team’s traditions.

“We all get together in the hotel, have a little pasta party and then do some just fun little note exchanging,” Blagden said. “It’s a wholesome event. It’s very team-bonding oriented.”

The team prides itself on having an open and inclusive environment for all who may want to join, according to its website. The club is open to all who are interested, regardless of ability.

Blagden said members come from all different backgrounds.

“We have people who ran throughout high school, some people who never ran a day in their life, and they’re joining as a senior just to check it out,” Blagden said. “That’s so fun to me because running is open to everyone. It’s one of those sports where you can always make a new friend.”

Nye said she feels very close to the team, and her favorite part is the people around her.

“These are all my best friends. We’re all super close. I love everybody,” Nye said.

“Everybody’s just so kind, so welcoming.”

Bauer said she enjoys the low-stress environment. She said she’s very glad to be in a club where running can be fun again, without the politics and yelling of high school sports.

In addition to running, club

cross country is a top THON fundraiser for general organizations, according to Blagden. The club participates in various activities to encourage fundraising.

“Our biggest fundraiser of the year is Miles for Smiles, a 46-hour treadmill marathon relay. So members of the team run 30-minute shifts for 46 hours,” Bauer said. “Last year, I was dancing for club cross country, so I got to run in the final four hours of our treadmill marathon. We do the total reveal, line dances, everything like that.”

Blagden also said she’s had positive THON experiences.

“We have families too, which is really nice. For the THON 5K, we had one of our families come up,” Blagden said. “We got to run with them, which is the perfect event for club cross country because it’s THON and running.”

The team has many different, interesting activities to make the running more fun and exciting, according to Nye and Bauer.

Some of these include a Spook Run, where the team dresses in costume and runs through downtown. Another is the Jingle Jog, which is a crossover between running and caroling.

All three student leaders strongly encourage anyone who may be interested to join the club.

“There is always somebody there who can run with you, if they’re at different paces or different distances, come try it out,” Bauer said. “If you don’t like it, no one’s feelings will get hurt, but you have that opportunity to enjoy it and find something special.”

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Gladieux’s rise

Ella Kurovsky
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Before becoming a star at Penn State, forward Sophia Gladieux played for Oley Valley High School in Oley, Pennsylvania, leaving behind a legacy that would follow her for years to come.

The three-time Berks County Player of the Year and 2019 Max Field Hockey Pennsylvania Player of the Year had an impressive high school career.

Gladieux left the Oley Valley program with 206 goals under her belt and a fanbase of young, aspiring field hockey players.

“She taught me a lot of things,” Oley Valley coach Tiffany Cappellano said. “She is so in touch with the youth here that if you say ‘Sophia Gladieux,’ they cheer. Her legacy is the inspiration that she is to all of those young players.”

After her older sister and aunt went to Penn State, Gladieux knew that she wanted to be a Nittany Lion. Coming from a small school in rural Pennsylvania, she wanted to experience all that State College had to offer.

“It was a no-brainer,” Gladieux said.

“I made such a good connection with (coach) Char (Morett-Curtiss) and the girls that went here. Every time I visited, I was able to see it for what it was besides just field hockey, and I really fell in love.”

Gladieux began to make her mark on the Penn State program as soon as she stepped foot on the turf. Gladieux notched her first-career goal in her fourth collegiate game and led Penn State in scoring during her freshman year.

With four game-winning goals as a newcomer, Gladieux began to cement her spot as a scoring threat at Penn State.

“It’s been fun to see her grow from a ninth grader to a senior in high school with her strength and her speed,” Penn State coach Lisa Bervinchak Love said.

“Even coming in as a freshman here, we relied on her for a lot of her scoring, but each year she has gotten better in all other areas of the game as well.”

Last summer, Gladieux joined Team USA in the 2024 Paris Olympics. A prestigious event featuring some of the best athletes in the world opened up many opportunities for her.

“She is somebody who doesn’t settle for the talent and gift that she has,” Penn State assistant

coach Laura Gebhart said. “She is someone who wants to continue getting better and find her new height.”

Gladieux previously trained with the U.S. team in May 2023 and later accepted her spot as the fourth-ever Nittany Lion field hockey player to participate in the Olympics. With the world watching, Gladieux felt the pressure on her to compete at the highest level.

“If you were to tell me just a year ago that I would be an Olympian, I would say you’re crazy,” Gladieux said.

“I was able to overcome lifelong fears of anxiety, and after building a relationship with (Team USA) head coach David Passmore, he was such an advocate for me and really trusted me and my abilities.”

With her family, friends and coaches on her side, Gladieux scored her first Olympic goal and Team USA’s lone goal against Spain.

“The goal that she scored against Spain was one of the best on a team that I’ve ever coached,” Passmore said.

“She has a natural instinct of knowing where the goal is and is particularly good on the reverse side.”

Passmore attributes much of Gladieux’s success to both her unabating dedication and the encouragement from her coaching staff at Penn State.

“I’d like to thank the support of the Penn State staff and coaching team for giving her a bit of a time out, because I think that way she’ll give them her best,” Passmore said. “She has been openly honest with me about mental health, which is important for people to know that even though it’s a challenge, she has faced it and it didn’t stop her from playing in the Olympics.”

Since then, Gladieux has continued her final season as a Nittany Lion. On Oct. 6 against Northwestern, the forward notched her 91st career goal to claim her spot as Penn State’s all-time leading scorer, breaking a 45-year record previously held by Candy Finn.

As for after college, Gladieux said she hopes to continue her pursuit of field hockey with the U.S. Olympic team and eventually find her balance with full-time teaching.

“If I could tell my younger self one thing, it would be to trust the process,” Gladieux said. “I have accomplished so much more than I could ever imagine.”

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