



VERSUS

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MASSACHUSETTS (1-6) MINUTEMEN (5-0) PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS



Graphic by Ella Freda

‘OUT OF CONTEXT’

James Franklin calls out those who misunderstood Big Ten scheduling quote

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A Big Ten team is already buying out game contracts to “go in the complete opposite direction,” James Franklin said Tuesday, a quote that was taken out of context almost as soon as it hit social media.

“Anybody that watched the entire interview or read the whole transcript, I was actually complimenting the schools from a scheduling perspective,” Franklin said Wednesday.

“It’s what we’ve been doing. Even in the question that was asked to me, that’s what was said.”

Franklin was initially asked whether Penn State would take different approach to nonconference scheduling with a 12-team College Football Playoff starting next season.

With four Pac-12 powerhouses also joining the Big Ten next year,

the conference will soon become more difficult. The Nittany Lions will play Ohio State, USC, UCLA and Washington, along with a road trip to Wisconsin in 2024.

Part of Franklin’s job is to schedule games that give the Nittany Lions the best chance to qualify for the playoff and go undefeated. Instead of only playing three ranked teams next season, Penn State will play four ranked Big Ten teams, three of which are currently ranked inside the top 10.

With an increasingly-difficult schedule, changes to more than one program could fall into place by the time the 2024 season kicks off.

That point apparently got lost in translation.

“When real media members grab a partial quote, and use it out of context, that’s frustrating and disappointing,” Franklin said.

Penn State’s 2024 nonconference slate includes a trip to West



Chris Eustler/Collegian

James Franklin has been outspokenly against scheduling tough nonconference opponents such as Auburn or West Virginia, and has said that data back up scheduling weaker teams like Delaware.

Virginia and two home games against Bowling Green and Kent State.

With less than 11 months until the Nittany Lions’ next season opener, conversations may be

had to alter their schedules like the undisclosed team Franklin referenced on Tuesday.

“If you’re not scheduling to be undefeated, you’re scheduling to have the least (amount of) losses

possible to give yourself a chance to be in the playoffs,” Franklin said.

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Big Ten schedules released for 2024-28

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Big Ten released the 2024-28 conference schedules for each of its soon-to-be 18 teams on Thursday.

After originally announcing the additions of USC and UCLA to the Big Ten in June 2022, the conference further added Oregon and Washington this past August.

The four longtime Pac-12 programs will make their Big Ten

debuts next fall.

In the Big Ten’s newly-released schedule, Penn State will play a home and away game against the 17 other programs in the five-year span.

Here are four takeaways from Penn State’s conference schedule release.

Path to playoff is harder

Penn State will no longer have to annually play Michigan and Ohio State, but the Buckeyes and

Wolverines will be replaced by potentially equally talented, but widely-unfamiliar competition.

In 2024, the Nittany Lions will play Ohio State, as well as Washington and UCLA at home, and USC on the road.

The Huskies and Trojans are currently ranked No. 7 and No. 9 in the AP Top 25 poll, respectively, while the Buckeyes stand at No. 4.

In the new scheduling model, Penn State typically won’t have the luxury of playing weaker teams, such as Rutgers and Indiana, every season.

The addition of four historic Pac-12 programs should give Penn State some leniency with a loss or two, since strength of schedule is one of the focus points of the College Football Playoff committee.

In the past, two losses almost guaranteed elimination from playoff contention, but with three ranked Pac-12 teams joining the Big Ten and a 12-team playoff format on the horizon, losing two games is likely to be accepted.

Penn State also starts next season on the road against West Virginia, making the Nittany Lions’ 2024 schedule that much harder.

No protected opponents

Sticking to its “unrivaled” mantra, Penn State is the Big Ten’s only team without a protected opponent it will play each season.

The Nittany Lions have faced Michigan State in its regular-season finale every year since 2013 — a battle for the prized Land Grant Trophy.

With the current conference schedule, Penn State won’t play the Spartans until 2025, and won’t take on historically-annual rival Michigan until 2027.

Road trips

Penn State has one road trip to the West Coast in 2024 for a contest against USC, which is a 2,572-mile journey by car.

The football team usually flies by plane, but the journey across the country isn’t easy through the air either, since State College airport doesn’t have planes big enough to also fit the equipment on the plane as well.

The exact logistics haven’t been announced yet, but it could mean that the equipment will have to be driven across the United States earlier in the week to get ready for the game on time.

The Nittany Lions’ longest journey if they do have to drive their equipment is nearly 2,700 miles to Eugene, Oregon.

Either way, travel would be an all-day affair, rather than a short flight to the surrounding states.

Unique opponents

One positive is that Beaver Stadium will host programs that Penn State hasn’t played for decades.

The last time the Nittany Lions hosted either USC, UCLA, Oregon or Washington was in 1994, when the Trojans came to town.

Penn State hasn’t played the Bruins or Ducks at home since 1967 and 1964, respectively. Penn State hasn’t ever played Washington at home.

In 2024, the Nittany Lions welcome the Bruins and Huskies to State College.

“If you’re not scheduling to be undefeated, you’re scheduling to have the least (amount of) losses possible to give yourself a chance to be in the playoffs,” Franklin said.

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Camille Stefani/Collegian File

Penn State will face USC, UCLA and Washington, as well as Ohio State, in the first year of an 18-team Big Ten in 2024.

MASSACHUSETTS MINUTEMEN

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jacquon Gibson	WR/So.	14	Dashaun Jerkins	S/Sr.	32	Donovan Turner	CB/Fr.	66	Wyatt Terlaak	OL/Jr.
0	Jalen Harrell	LB/So.	14	Donta Whack	RB/Fr.	33	Darius Gooden	CB/Jr.	67	Cole Erickson	OL/Fr.
1	Marcus Bradley	DE/So.	15	Derrienne Craig	LB/So.	35	Dymeir Still	RB/Fr.	68	Chris Glass	OL/Jr.
1	Isaac Ross	WR/Sr.	15	Kay’Ron Lynch-Adams	RB/Jr.	36	Jyree Roberts	LB/Fr.	70	Brandon MacKinnon	OL/So.
2	Brady Olson	QB/Jr.	16	Ahmad Haston	QB/Fr.	37	John Burton	LB/So.	72	Ethan Mottinger	OL/Jr.
2	Tyler Rudolph	S/Jr.	16	Jaylen Murphy	DL/Fr.	39	Payton Andrade	DE/Fr.	73	Cole Garcia	OL/Sr.
3	Steven Ortiz	CB/So.	17	Dallas Elliott	WR/Fr.	40	Dominic Schofield	LB/So.	75	Marcellus Anderson	OL/Sr.
3	Taisun Phommachanh	QB/Jr.	17	Christian LeBrun	LB/Fr.	41	Alex Tsoumakas III	LB/Fr.	77	Tyler Leinberger	OL/Fr.
4	JB Brown	DL/Sr.	18	Louce Julien	DE/So.	42	Billy Wooden	DT/Sr.	79	Ryan Mosesso	OL/So.
4	George Johnson III	WR/Jr.	18	Conner Whitson	QB/Fr.	44	Aaron Beckwith	DT/So.	80	Matt Smith	TE/Jr.
5	Carlos Davis	QB/Sr.	19	Jalon Ferrell	S/Sr.	45	Tate Kendall	LS/Fr.	81	Patrick Rindfuss	TE/Fr.
5	Tyler Martin	LB/Fr.	20	Greg Desrosiers Jr.	RB/So.	45	Kyle Ott	LB/Fr.	82	Jason Weir	TE/Jr.
6	Jeremiah McGill	S/Fr.	20	Dorian Helm	DB/Jr.	46	Josh Brunelle	LB/Jr.	83	Ott Eric Ottender	WR/Fr.
6	Zamar Wise	WR/So.	21	Jalen John	RB/So.	47	Ethan Dumont	LS/Sr.	84	Shane Robles	WR/Fr.
7	Jordan Mahoney	CB/Jr.	21	Te’Rai Powell	DB/Jr.	48	Jerry Roberts Jr.	LB/Sr.	85	Jackson Manning	TE/So.
7	Mark Pope	WR/Sr.	22	Gerrell Johnson	LB/Jr.	49	Shambre Jackson	DT/So.	87	Magnus Von Saldern	TE/Fr.
8	Tristan Armstrong	LB/Jr.	22	Victor Mafo	WR/Fr.	50	Aquan Robinson	DE/So.	88	Anthony Johnson	DL/So.
8	Anthony Simpson	WR/Jr.	23	Jalen Stewart	LB/Jr.	51	Kaden Nystuen	OL/Fr.	91	Cameron Carson	PK/Jr.
9	Myles Turner	LB/So.	24	Tim Baldwin Jr.	RB/So.	53	Sahnai Swain-Price	DE/Fr.	91	Jonathan Martin	DT/So.
9	Christian Wells	WR/Jr.	24	Michael Oppong	LB/Jr.	54	Nicolas Dorigatti	DE/Fr.	93	Uchenna Ezewike	DE/Sr.
10	TY. Harding	WR/So.	25	Juan Lua	S/Sr.	55	Zachary Anderson	OL/Fr.	94	Bennett Abbe	K/Fr.
10	Zukudo Igwenagu	DE/Jr.	25	RJ Edwards	LB/So.	55	Tyson Watson	DE/So.	94	Kofi Asare	DE/Fr.
11	Eni Falayi	TE/So.	27	Noah Boykin	DB/Sr.	56	Cletus Mathurin	DT/Sr.	95	CJ Kolodziey	P/Jr.
11	Nahji Logan	LB/Jr.	28	Jerrod Cameron	CB/Fr.	57	Jaden Wiggins	DE/Fr.	96	Michael Cooper	PK/Fr.
12	Shawn Harris Jr.	WR/Jr.	29	Caden Ghannam	CB/So.	58	Jonny Hassard	OL/Jr.	97	Jermaine Wiggins Jr.	DL/Fr.
12	Isaiah Rutherford	DB/Jr.	30	Donovan Dyson	LB/Fr.	60	Josh Atwood	OL/Jr.	98	Riley Moore	PK/So.
13	Gino Campiotti	TE/Sr.	31	Rashad Henry	LB/Fr.	64	Peyton Miller	OL/Fr.	99	Hugo Klages	DT/Jr.
13	Osei Dixon	DB/So.	32	Jackson Paradis	RB/Fr.	65	Connor Vasher	OL/Sr.			

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	68	Anthony Donkoh	OL/Fr.
0	Dominic DeLuca	LB/So.	16	Elliot Washington II	CB/Fr.	39	Ty Blanding	DT/Fr.	70	J’ven Williams	OL/Fr.
1	KeAndre Lambert-Smith	WR/Jr.	17	Karson Kiesewetter	QB/Fr.	39	Jashaun Green	S/Fr.	71	Vega Ioane	OL/Fr.
1	Jaylen Reed	S/Jr.	17	Mason Stahl	WR/Jr.	40	Patrick Williams	S/Fr.	73	Caeden Wallace	OL/Sr.
2	Liam Clifford	WR/So.	18	Joey Schlaffer	TE/Fr.	41	Kobe King	LB/So.	74	Olu Fashanu	OL/Jr.
2	Keaton Ellis	S/Sr.	18	Davon Townley Jr.	DT/So.	42	Mason Robinson	DE/Fr.	75	Matt Detisch	OL/Fr.
3	Johnny Dixon	CB/Sr.	19	Jack Lambert	QB/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Jr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Sr.
3	Dante Cephas	WR/Sr.	19	Jameial Lyons	DE/Fr.	44	Chop Robinson	DE/Jr.	78	Golden Israel-Achumba	OL/Jr.
4	Kalen King	CB/Jr.	20	Adisa Isaac	DE/Jr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Jr.	79	Addison Penn	OL/Jr.
4	Malick Meiga	WR/Jr.	21	Carmelo Taylor	WR/Fr.	45	Jackson Pryts	LB/Fr.	80	Cristian Driver	WR/Fr.
5	Omari Evans	WR/So.	21	Kevin Winston Jr.	S/So.	47	Joey Palko	DE/Fr.	81	Jan Mahlert	WR/So.
5	Cam Miller	CB/So.	23	Curtis Jacobs	LB/Jr.	47	Will Patton	SN/Fr.	82	Ethan Black	WR/Fr.
6	Harrison Wallace III	WR/So.	23	Trey Potts	RB/Sr.	48	Tyler Duzansky	SN/So.	83	Jake Spencer	WR/Jr.
6	Zakee Wheatley	S/So.	24	London Montgomery	RB/Fr.	48	Kaveion Keys	LB/Fr.	84	Theo Johnson	TE/Jr.
7	Kaden Saunders	WR/Fr.	24	Ta’Mere Robinson	LB/Fr.	49	Ben Chizmar	LB/So.	86	Jason Estrella	OL/So.
8	Tyler Johnson	WR/Fr.	25	Daequan Hardy	CB/Sr.	50	Alonzo Ford Jr.	DT/Jr.	87	Andrew Rappleyea	WR/Fr.
8	DaKarri Nelson	S/Fr.	25	DK Keney	RB/Fr.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Sr.	88	Jerry Cross	TE/Fr.
9	King Mack	S/Fr.	26	Cam Wallace	RB/Fr.	52	Dominic Rulli	OL/Fr.	88	Sam Siafa	TE/Fr.
9	Beau Pribula	QB/Fr.	27	Lamont Payne Jr.	CB/Fr.	52	Jordan van den Berg	DT/So.	89	Finn Furmanek	DT/Fr.
10	Nick Singleton	RB/So.	28	Zane Durant	DT/So.	53	Nick Dawkins	OL/Jr.	91	Dvon Ellies	DT/Jr.
10	Mehki Flowers	S/Fr.	29	Audavion Collins	CB/Fr.	54	Ian Harvie	OL/Fr.	91	Alex Felkins	K/Sr.
11	Abdul Carter	LB/So.	30	Amiel Davis	RB/So.	55	Chimdy Onoh	OL/Fr.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Sr.
11	Malik McClain	WR/Jr.	30	George Hlavac	CB/Fr.	56	Joseph Mupoyi	DE/Jr.	93	Bobby Mears	DE/Sr.
12	Anthony Ivey	WR/Fr.	31	Kolin Dinkins	CB/Fr.	56	JB Nelson	OL/Jr.	93	Sander Sahaydak	K/So.
12	Zion Tracy	CB/Fr.	32	Keon Wylie	LB/Fr.	57	Ibrahim Traore	OL/Jr.	94	Ryan Barker	K/Fr.
13	Kaytron Allen	RB/So.	33	Dani Dennis-Sutton	DE/So.	58	Kaleb Artis	DT/Fr.	94	Jake Wilson	DE/Jr.
13	Tony Rojas	LB/Fr.	34	Tyler Holzworth	RB/So.	62	Liam Powers	OL/Fr.	95	Riley Thompson	P/Sr.
14	Tyrece Mills	S/Jr.	35	Blaise Sokach-Minnick	SN/Fr.	63	Alex Birchmeier	OL/Fr.	96	Mitchell Groh	P/So.
14	Jaxon Smolik	QB/Fr.	35	Jace Tutty	CB/So.	64	Hunter Nourzad	OL/Sr.	97	Alex Bacchetta	P/Fr.
15	Drew Allar	QBSO.	36	Zuriah Fisher	DE/Jr.	65	Jim Fitzgerald	OL/Fr.	98	Andrew Sharga	DE/Fr.
15	Amin Vanover	DE/Jr.	38	Tank Smith	RB/Sr.	66	Drew Shelton	OL/So.	99	Coziah Izzard	DT/So.
16	Khalil Dinkins	TE/So.	38	Winston Yates	LB/Fr.	67	Henry Boehme	OL/Fr.	99	Gabriel Nwosu	P/So.

Saunders seizes opportunities

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Dani Dennis-Sutton. Nick Singleton. Drew Allar. Kaden Saunders. Those were the top four commitments in Penn State’s highly acclaimed 2022 recruiting class, which ranked No. 6 nationally.

The first three have already broken out, and have been among the most important pieces on the Nittany Lions’ roster since arriving on campus last season, but one name that might be flying under the radar is the redshirt freshman Saunders. Though he has just five career receptions under his belt, it’s hard to find a coach or player that hasn’t spoken highly of his potential.

Saunders initially struggled to adjust physically to the collegiate level, but has since gone through a metamorphosis of sorts and emerged as a potential weapon for the team. According to strength coach Chuck Losey, Saunders’ body isn’t built to be big — it’s built for speed.

“I think what Kaden ran into — and a lot of kids coming out of high school run into this — they get so consumed with that weight number,” Losey said on Tuesday. “Kaden’s frame is smaller than most guys.”

Losey said that Saunders was so worried about adding weight that he lost his greatest attribute, and he had to spend his freshman year getting it back.

“We’ve been able to really dial in on his speed, and you know, he’s producing now on the field,” Losey said. “So I’m excited for him, excited for his future.”

Saunders admitted that he struggled with adding good



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Penn State wide receiver Kaden Saunders high-fives Penn State fans after the Nittany Lions’ 30-13 victory over Illinois in Champaign, Illinois. Saunders finished the game with two receptions for 19 yards.

weight and maintaining his elite speed, but credited the staff for getting him in position to succeed.

“They were pushing me a lot over the summer because they know what I can bring to the group, so them bringing that out of me, I really appreciate it,” Saunders said.

While his time at receiver has been limited, Saunders has been able to make an impact on punt returns this season. Special teams coordinator Stacy Collins said that Kaden gives the team an “opportunity to push the ball vertical,” something that could be useful for a team lacking in explosive, downfield plays on offense.

While he’s mainly been involved on special teams, Saunders is poised for a bigger role

down the road, whether it’s this season or in the coming years.

“Just being able to get on the field every day and touch the ball, that helps when I get in at receiver just knowing that I’m supposed to be out there, just showing what I can do,” Saunders said.

Saunders’ abilities haven’t gone unnoticed, and wide receiver coach Marques Hagans knows that Saunders is hungry for an elevated role within the offense.

“I think once you touch that field and represent this program, that’s something you want more of, so finding his way through punt returns ... he’s gained confidence,” Hagans said.

Walk-on-turned-team captain Dom DeLuca knows a thing or two about making big

progressions, and believes that Saunders will be able to surprise some people, calling him a “sleeper.”

“If he gets the opportunity to get one loose, it’s gonna be hard to stop him,” DeLuca said.

Dating back to the offseason, the wide receiver room has been one of Penn State’s major question marks.

The Nittany Lions lost their two leading receivers, Parker Washington and Mitchell Tinsley, to the NFL, making it unclear who’d be able to step into an increased role.

Penn State is a team loaded with talent this season, sitting at 5-0 on the year with championship aspirations, and a squad James Franklin has called the deepest in his tenure. But that depth is being tested early on,

particularly in the wide receiver room.

“We’re a work in progress there with the receiving corps, still trying to find the right pieces,” offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich said on Tuesday.

KeAndre Lambert-Smith has been a consistent presence, but behind him things have been up in the air: Harrison Wallace III, Liam Clifford, Malik McClain and Dante Cephas have all earned starts, but none have been able to establish themselves as reliable options to this point.

Wallace has missed time due to injury, as have Omari Evans and Malick Meiga, creating a tumultuous few weeks for the receiver unit.

“We got some new guys that we’re still trying to work some of that out with, all the different coverages with the different techniques,” Franklin said after practice on Wednesday. “We just have to continue to grind on it and continue to get more reps.”

While the Nittany Lions have emerged from the first five weeks unscathed, they’ll need improvement in the passing game if they want to capture the Big Ten crown and crash the College Football Playoff this season.

In order to overcome teams like Michigan and Ohio State, it’ll be crucial that the offense is well-rounded, but at times this season it’s felt one-dimensional or even no-dimensional.

Saunders’ potential makes him a viable candidate to move into a greater role moving forward, especially if he can continue to make strides.

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Sam Craft/AP photo

UMass head coach Don Brown looks on during a 2022 game against Texas A&M. Brown and Franklin coached together at Maryland from 2009-10, and now they’ll face off on opposite sidelines in Saturday’s contest.

Franklin, Brown reunite

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Thirteen years ago, James Franklin and Don Brown paced the sidelines of Byrd Field as Maryland assistant coaches.

Franklin served as the Ter-rapins’ offensive coordinator, while Brown captained the other side of the ball as defensive coordinator.

The coaches will once again share the field on Saturday, but this time they’ll be manning different sidelines.

Franklin will lead No. 6 Penn State into battle against Brown’s UMass squad on Homecoming weekend in Happy Valley.

Franklin said he and Brown “go way back,” and that Brown’s “unorthodox” coaching style has impacted how the Nittany Lions operate each week.

“A big part of how we do things here is based on some of the challenges that he presented as a defensive coordinator when I was a young offensive coordinator,” Franklin said Tuesday.

By the time they met up in College Park, Brown was a well-established coach who had held positions with seven different programs across 17 seasons, including three head-coaching jobs.

In contrast, Franklin was still a young coach who was beginning only his second gig as an offensive coordinator.

Brown led a Maryland defense that ranked in the top 40 nationally in both yards and points allowed in 2010.

“Don did a really good job of getting the defense to understand his system, buy into his system and play extremely hard,” Franklin said.

After the 2010 season, the coaches parted ways, as Franklin took his first head-coaching job at Vanderbilt and Brown moved on to UConn.

Brown and Franklin’s new squads faced off in the 2011 season, when the Commodores knocked off the Huskies 24-21.

Vanderbilt’s win was a sign of things to come under Franklin, who would lead the Commodores to three straight bowl games from 2011-13. Prior to Franklin’s tenure, Vanderbilt had never been invited to consecutive bowl games. After breathing life into the Vanderbilt program, Franklin looked to do the same for a Penn State program that was reeling from NCAA sanctions stemming from the Jerry Sandusky sex abuse case.

Just like with Vanderbilt, Franklin met Brown in his inaugural season with Penn

State. Brown, Boston College’s defensive coordinator, met Penn State in the 2014 Pinstripe Bowl, which the Nittany Lions won 31-30.

Brown’s next destination moved him directly into Penn State’s crosshairs in the Big Ten, as became the defensive coordinator of Michigan.

The Nittany Lions went 3-1 against the Wolverines during Brown’s tenure, as Franklin looked to outcoach his mentor on the other side.

“Don is what I would describe, and I mean this as a compliment, Don’s a greedy defensive coordinator,” Franklin said in 2017.

Since then, the Nittany Lions have continued to rise under Franklin, landing the Big Ten Championship in 2016 and a trio of New Year’s Six bowl victories.

Franklin’s head coaching philosophy, which has led to success at two different programs, took a big inspiration from Brown’s work at Maryland.

“As a head coach, I got a very structured way that we install and the way we teach, and a lot of that comes from Don,” Franklin said.

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3 keys for Saturday

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State returns from the bye week as massive 42.5-point home favorites against UMass.

The Nittany Lions and Minutemen have found themselves on opposite sides of the college football spectrum through six weeks, as Penn State is still undefeated, while UMass is 1-5.

The return to action probably won’t be anything short of a blowout, as UMass’ only win was its season opener against New Mexico State.

Watchers may end up turning off the television early, but here are a few things to watch for against the Minutemen.

Explosive offense

While Penn State is still undefeated, its offense has not been explosive in 2023.

After a 72-yard touchdown toss to KeAndre Lambert-Smith on the Nittany Lions’ first drive of the season, Drew Allar’s second-farthest pass was a 35-yard completion to Lambert-Smith two weeks ago against Northwestern.

Allar is tied for No. 90 in the country with 6.9 yards per pass attempt.

Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen also haven’t found the same explosiveness as they had a season ago. The longest run between the two running backs was a 19-yard carry by Singleton versus Illinois.

Penn State can use its home matchup against UMass to find the explosive plays it’s looking for.

“We know we have to be more explosive. We’re going to work real hard on it,” offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich said. “This bye week gives us an opportunity to really self-scout, look at ourselves and to attack areas that we need to address.”

UMass has one of the worst defenses in all of college football. Out of 133 FBS teams, the Minutemen rank No. 129 in

points allowed per game, No. 128 in rushing yards allowed per game and No. 74 in passing yards allowed per game.

If the Nittany Lions can’t find big plays against UMass, it’ll be really concerning.

Momentum into tough conference schedule

One week after Saturday’s game versus UMass, Penn State will travel to Columbus to play No. 3 Ohio State.

A concern for Penn State heading into the bye week was the chemistry between Allar and the wide receivers.

“I think there’s some things that we have to do in terms of separating at the top of our routes or also being able to run past people,” James Franklin said after the Northwestern game.

An easier opponent out of the bye week should allow the Nittany Lions to work out the kinks that they’ve had this season before they enter the back half of their schedule.

Backups getting reps

If Saturday’s game ends up being the blowout it’s shaped up to be, Penn State’s second- and third-team players will get some valuable experience.

Backup quarterback Beau Pribula has played in all five of the Nittany Lions’ games so far this season, completing six of his 13 pass attempts for 75 yards and two touchdowns. Pribula has also rushed for 166 yards and two touchdowns on 28 carries.

Defensively, defensive end Zuriiah Fisher has seen the most of the reps he’s seen this season, as he’s tied for the team lead with 2.5 sacks despite being a third-team player.

Guest Picker: Amy Schafer



Schafer

What to watch for: I think the Nittany Lions will dominate UMass. If Allar remains consistent, the defense will do the rest. The Nittany Lions will no doubt stay undefeated with an overwhelming win on Saturday.

Score: Penn State 48, UMass 3

Seth Engle



Engle

What to watch for: Penn State has yet to find its explosiveness through five games, but the Nittany Lions have scored at least 30 points in an FBS-best 12 games. Expect the Nittany Lion offense to break out of its shell and dominate UMass, which has donned one of the nation’s worst defenses this season.

Score: Penn State 60, UMass 7

Zach Allen



Allen

What to watch for: Penn State returns from its bye week with a home game against one of the country’s worst defenses. UMass is allowing nearly 40 points per game, which doesn’t bode well for the Minutemen considering the Nittany Lions are only allowing 9.6 points per game. Penn State should win with ease and build momentum for the future.

Score: Penn State 55, UMass 3

Joel Haas



Haas

What to watch for: This week, Penn State welcomes back thousands of alumni for its annual Homecoming game, and there’s a reason why the team chose UMass as the opponent. The Minutemen have gone just 4-43 since 2018, and I don’t see Don Brown and Co. picking up their annual win against the No.6-ranked team in the nation.

Score: Penn State 45, UMass 7

Sam Woloson



Woloson

What to watch for: UMass is a lot better than its 1-6 record indicates, but its still no match for Penn State. The only way the Minutemen will keep up with the Nittany Lions is if their offense catches fire, which hasn’t happened for any team against Penn State this year. Expect another easy win for Penn State as next week’s date with Ohio State looms.

Score: Penn State 52, UMass 6

Johnny Dixon walks the walk

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

If you're gonna talk the talk, you better walk the walk, and that's exactly what Penn State cornerback Johnny Dixon has done this season.

Corners are typically known for being some of the most vocal players on the team, and that rings true in Happy Valley.

"I feel like it just depends on who you are. Me, that just comes out, I can't choose it," Dixon said after practice on Wednesday. "Some people, when they wake up and they start talking, some people they just get in the mode and they don't talk at all. But for me, you're gonna hear me."

When James Franklin met with the media on Tuesday, he opened his press conference by giving Dixon an unprompted shoutout, saying that he hasn't been "getting enough attention for how well he's playing."

"Johnny's a great blitzer and also supports the run, so I wanted to give him some love because it's deserved," Franklin said.

Penn State's defense was widely expected to rank among the nation's best prior to the season, but few likely could have anticipated the Nittany Lions leading the country in yards-per-game allowed through five games.

"Like always, we feel like we could have made more plays, but for the most part we're doing our job," Dixon said. "I feel like we got the best corners in the nation."

Last season, opponents rarely targeted Joey Porter Jr., allowing Kalen King to see lots of action on the other side of the field. Rising to the challenge, King was able to establish himself as an elite cor-



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Cornerback Johnny Dixon returns an interception against Illinois. Penn State intercepted Illinois quarterback Luke Altmyer four times in the Nittany Lions' 30-13 road victory.

ner, registering 30 tackles and 15 passes defended which tied for third nationally.

This year, opponents have avoided the projected first-round pick King and instead opted to test Dixon, who's passed with flying colors.

"To be honest with you I feel bad for Kalen, because I still want him to show what he can do," King said. "But I love it. If you wanna throw at me, go ahead ... we got two elite corners so try your luck."

While the cornerbacks have different playstyles, they're both

formidable forces that complement each other well and make each other better.

"Whether it's Kalen and how quickly he triggers on perimeter plays or whether it's Johnny being able to defeat guys with his hands and techniques and fundamentals," Franklin said. "Those guys have been a big part of our defense of success."

For Dixon, a big part of his game involves trash talking those lined up across from him, a skill he developed and refined growing up in Tampa, Florida.

"Where I'm from, you gotta

show people who you are at all times," Dixon said "If you look scared, I'm not gonna take you seriously."

Opponents have taken different strategies to counter Dixon's chirping, including ignoring it or firing back, which he enjoys the most.

"Some people try to act like they don't hear me, but I know they hear me, and some people talk back and it just makes the game more fun," Dixon said. "Show me you're a dog too."

Talking smack isn't just fun for Dixon, it has a tangible impact on

games as well. The Nittany Lions are allowing just 136.4 passing yards per contest, second to none this season.

Dixon is able to tell when he gets a player rattled as well, something he takes a lot of pride in.

"They might start stumbling off the line trying to do a release, they might drop an easy ball and stuff like that ... let's me know I got 'em."

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Drew Shelton's 'extra set of eyes'

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Drew Shelton spent most of his freshman year as a sponge, soaking in as much knowledge as he could from Penn State's veteran offensive linemen while honing his craft on the practice field and in the film room.

But when an injury forced All-American left tackle Olu Fashanu to miss the final games of the season, Shelton was the next man up.

Suddenly, he was Sean Clifford's blind-side protector.

"It's an adjustment going from being on the redshirt track to all of a sudden being thrown in there," Shelton said Wednesday.

His first game as a starter came at Indiana, where the Nittany Lions dominated up front to the tune of four rushing touchdowns and just one sack allowed.

Penn State's coaches preach the idea of "preparing like a starter," but Shelton said preparing like a starter was much different than actually being the starter.

"That first start for me really showed me that I wasn't preparing as well as I needed to," Shelton said. "Although I felt like I was preparing good, I wasn't there yet."

Shelton started the last five



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Offensive lineman Drew Shelton blocks Maryland's Durell Nchami during a home game in 2022. Penn State defeated the Terrapins 30-0.

games of the season, including the Rose Bowl, and Penn State's offense didn't skip a beat.

Across that span, the Nittany Lions only allowed nine total sacks and averaged 199 rushing yards per game.

Shelton was forced to grow up fast, but his teammates made sure he didn't have to do it by himself.

"Olu last year, he really took me under his wing and tried to teach me how to prepare, how to watch

film," Shelton said. "I appreciate it a lot, and we still go through those things now."

This year, Shelton is once again sitting behind veteran linemen, but now he's using his playing experience to aid Fashanu and right tackle Caedan Wallace.

Shelton described himself as "an extra set of eyes" on the sideline, helping the starters improve while staying focused in case his number is called again.

"The three of us, we

communicate all the time and just try to help each other get better," Shelton said.

Shelton is far from a static player, though. During his second year with the program, he's bounced around from left tackle to right tackle and has even taken reps at both guard positions.

Shelton said he's more comfortable on the left side of the line after playing there last season, but his transition to the right side has gone smoothly so far.

"At first, that transition going from left side to right side was hard on him, but he's adjusted really well," James Franklin said. "I think our coaches and his teammates have a lot of confidence in his ability to do it."

A big difference between tackles and guards is pure size. Tackles typically have to be more agile to contain speedy edge rushers, while guards are usually bigger and stronger to help move traffic in the middle.

Franklin said Shelton is getting bigger and stronger, going from about 300 pounds in his freshman year to around 313 pounds this season.

Trying to be a more versatile player has been frustrating at times for Shelton, especially after plugging in at left tackle last year and seeing immediate on-field success.

Shelton said his new positions and techniques haven't come to him right away, but he's committed to chipping away at them one rep at a time.

"You're gonna have your ups and your downs," Shelton said. "You just have to continue to embrace the work of it, the grind of it, and keep working at it."

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Lions in the league

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was a difficult Sunday for several Nittany Lions, including Micah Parsons and Miles Sanders, who failed to produce much during blowout losses.

In their stead, other former Penn Staters made big plays for their teams this weekend.

Here are the top Penn State performances in the NFL from Week 5.

Joey Porter Jr., cornerback, Pittsburgh Steelers

Joey Porter Jr.'s first career interception couldn't have come at a better time for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Leading 10-8 with 4:10 to go, the Baltimore Ravens looked to deliver the knockout blow on third and goal.

Quarterback Lamar Jackson floated a fade toward Odell Beckham Jr., but Porter was in a perfect position to snag the football and keep the Steelers alive.

On the ensuing possession, the Steelers hit a big play to take a 14-10 lead. From there, Porter and the Pittsburgh defense halted the Ravens on their last two drives to secure the win.

Porter replaced veteran Patrick Peterson at outside corner in the second half on Sunday, and he could be in line for a bigger role in the defense as the season progresses.

Jordan Stout, punter, Baltimore Ravens

Jordan Stout continued to play lights out as the Ravens' starting punter on Sunday.

Stout had four punts for a total of 154 yards, including three that were downed inside the 20-yard line.

Stout has proven to be one of the most accurate punters in the league so far this season, downing 11 of his 26 punts inside the 20, tied for third most in the NFL.

Jaquan Brisker, safety, Chicago Bears

The Chicago Bears got their first win of the season against the Washington Commanders on Thursday night, and Jaquan Brisker did his part for the Bears' defense.

Brisker finished with six total tackles to help the Bears withstand a late rally from the Commanders.

Chicago contained another former Nittany Lion, Jahan Dot-

son, who was held to only three catches for 30 yards on Thursday.

Brisker has the third-most tackles for the Bears with 29 so far this season.

Will Fries, guard, Indianapolis Colts

Moving into the trenches, guard Will Fries was part of a great effort by the Indianapolis Colts' offensive line against the Tennessee Titans.

The Colts ran for 193 yards on the ground, as the line opened up huge holes for running back Zack Moss all day long.

In pass protection, the Colts only allowed one sack and didn't allow any tackles for loss, which kept the offense on track in a tight game.

Fries and the interior of the line held Pro Bowl defensive tackle Jeffery Simmons to just three total tackles and zero hits on the quarterback.

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THE 1-0 PODCAST



Can Penn State compete in a stacked 2024 Big Ten?

By Zach Allen & Seth Engle
Edited by Kathryn Pinto
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"The 1-0 Podcast" keeps going during the bye week, with co-hosts Zach Allen and Seth Engle breaking down major news in the Big Ten conference.

The Big Ten announced its schedules for 2024-28, now updated with the addition of Oregon and Washington. In total,

the conference added four new west coast teams, bringing the total number to 18.

Allen and Engle discuss Penn State's 2024 strength of schedule, how it compares to the rest of the Big Ten and how all of the recent developments relate to the expanded College Football Playoff.

The 1-0 Podcast is brought to you by Penn State Student Affairs.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

*Penn State LGBTQ+ students and faculty share their experiences on “coming out” to friends and family*By **Reece Coren**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Members of the LGBTQ+ community across the United States will come together on Wednesday to celebrate National Coming Out Day.

Penn State student Lucy Martin is one of those members.

Martin, a third-year studying acting, described her identity as “queer, gay (and) a girl-kisser.” She said she’s had trouble trying to find her place between bisexual, straight and lesbian labels.

“I am a feminine woman and most of my dating history is with other feminine women,” Martin said.

Despite her preference of the term “queer,” Martin said societal pressures once forced her to find a definition.

Instead of coming out to everyone at once, Martin said she gradually revealed her queer identity to those around her, starting with her parents.

“I didn’t really come out to my friends,” Martin said. “I was just like, ‘I have a girlfriend now.’”

Martin said her coming out experience was really just living her life as a queer person.

“Because it was such a fluid thing, I didn’t ever have that moment of a weight (lifted) off my shoulders,” Martin said.

She said “backtracking,” changing her mind or having another moment of self-discovery, “didn’t feel like an option” for her.

“That’s not something that I’d seen people I know personally — or in the media — do,” Martin said.

Instead, Martin said she imagined coming out as figuring out her identity, then telling people if she wanted to.

Growing up, Walker Reiss also struggled with his identity.

Reiss, a first-year studying acting who identifies as bisexual, said he was nervous to start at Penn State after growing up in a “pretty liberal area.”

He said he started questioning his identity around fourth or fifth grade.

“I didn’t really know what the feelings were at the time,” Reiss said. “I just knew I felt different than other kids.”

Not knowing how to describe his feelings, Reiss said he felt lonely.

“I just couldn’t talk to anyone about it,” Reiss said. “When I finally found someone that could



Alexandra Antoniono/Colegian

Jasz Ward (left) and Lucy Martin experienced different coming out experiences. “We as a society have an immense difficulty with letting people just live and be,” Ward said.

relate and understood what I was saying, it just made me feel a lot more comfortable.”

While in high school, Reiss said he officially announced his identity for the first time by posting a picture on Instagram.

“I was really nervous to post it,” Reiss said. “I knew that people knew I was gay, but once I did post it, I was met with so much love; it felt amazing.”

He said he wishes those who question his identity understood how difficult it is to grow up as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

“Why do I have to profess what I am to you and you just get to live your life,” Reiss said. “Homosexuality doesn’t define who you are.”

Like Reiss, Martin also realized she was different at a young age, before she was in a relationship.

Once in a relationship Martin said she felt pressure to conform to “heterosexual roles.”

“I felt like I was never going to come to a conclusion,” Martin said, “and I still feel that way sometimes.”

Like Martin, Haleigh Hainsey,

a student worker for the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, discovered her identity during high school, specifically her third year.

“I knew for a long time, but that’s when I came out to everyone that I wasn’t straight,” Hainsey, a fourth-year studying geography, said.

Hainsey, a transgender and bisexual woman who uses she/they pronouns, said she first came out as trans in November 2021 after watching RuPaul’s Drag Race with her partner.

“I mumbled under my breath that I really liked some of the dresses they were wearing (and I wish I could wear one,” Hainsey said.

Hainsey said she started hormone replacement therapy (HRT) on Dec. 29, 2021.

“I’ve been out ever since,” Hainsey said.

She said despite having to come out twice — as bisexual and then as transgender — the hardest part has been coming out to herself.

“Everyone always thinks that coming out to your friends and family is the hardest part, but the hardest part for me was coming to terms with myself and realizing that it’s okay to be bisexual, it’s OK to be trans,” Hainsey said.

She said she grew up in a “very conservative” area in Virginia.

“I didn’t meet my first queer person until (my) sophomore year of high school,” Hainsey said. “I wasn’t told about it. I wasn’t very informed; I didn’t know those things were allowed — that you were allowed to be outside of the gender norms.”

Hainsey said coming out to her parents made her especially nervous.

“I got a lot of confusion (and) a lot of tearful phone calls from my parents the first couple of weeks,” Hainsey said. “They felt bad that they didn’t know, but they also were very confused (and) scared.”

After some time, Hainsey said some family members have come to accept her identity, realizing

that she’s still the same person, “just the correct gender.”

“I’m still here,” Hainsey said. “I’m still alive (and) well.”

After two years at Penn State Altoona, Hainsey said transferring to University Park her third year was a “culture shock.”

She said University Park is the first place she’s ever been with “a lot of LGBTQ resources.”

“I felt safe for the first time in a long time,” Hainsey said.

She said finally having that safe space felt overwhelming “in a joyful way.”

One way Penn State students can help create a more inclusive campus is by sharing their name and pronouns when meeting someone, Hainsey said.

“We’re here; we’re queer, and we’re not going away,” Hainsey said. “We’ve always been here; this is not anything new. We just feel safe enough to now start showing it.”

Jasz Ward was also worried about attending Penn State coming from a predominantly-Black area in Atlanta.

She said she’s had trouble finding other LGBTQ+ Black students at Penn State.

Ward, a third-year studying acting who also uses she/they pronouns, said she’s “always known” she was part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Though Ward coming out to her mom was a “simple thing,” her dad responded by calling her identity “just a phase.”

“I know me better than the people who are saying this,” Ward said. “I know that it’s not (a phase) — a phase wouldn’t last 21 years.”

Ward said Penn State is the first place she’s found an

LGBTQ+ group of friends.

“I have so much joy around me through people who are not hiding themselves,” Ward said. “That’s infectious.”

She said “the dominant narrative” that children are assumed to be straight until they prove they aren’t and LGBTQ+ people are “deviant” is something she has grappled with a lot during her coming out process.

“We as a society have immense difficulty with letting people just live and be,” Martin said.

She said she “hated” being asked about her identity when she was younger.

“It felt like there was a time limit on me to figure things out,” Martin said.

Kate Rawson, the assistant director of the CSGD, began questioning her sexual orientation when she was around Martin’s age.

Rawson, who identifies as bisexual, said it took her a while to find a label that felt good for her, sharing that she came out between her third and fourth years in college.

Rawson said coming out still takes a lot of courage, even with the people they’re closest with. She said her first time coming out was “a relief” and “really validating.”

Before coming out, Rawson said she struggled to figure out where she fit in.

“I was around a lot of gay (and) straight people and hadn’t met too many people who identified as somewhere in between,” Rawson said.

Although some people assume bisexual people are “50/50,” half liking men and half-liking women, Rawson said her identity is “fluid.”

Like Martin, Rawson also said she felt societal pressure to label herself. She said the first label she used for herself was “hetero-flexible.”

“It’s so cringe now, but it was very early for me,” Rawson said.

Rawson said discovering one’s identity doesn’t have to be the same.

“Maybe there’s not even a label that exists for you yet,” Rawson said. “That’s why our language is always evolving.”

Martin said there have been moments during her “queer journey” when she felt “sexualized” and “dehumanized.”

“It is very stressful to feel like you don’t know yourself, but, in another way, it can be kind of beautiful and exciting to not know,” Martin said. “There’s so much excitement in the unknown; stay confused, who gives a shit.”

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Penn State Hillel hosts vigil in response to war

By **Yusheng He**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Over 100 people attended a vigil on the Old Main lawn on Tuesday night to commemorate those who have died in the latest war between Israel and Hamas and pray for peace and safety.

According to The Associated Press, Hamas, a group that has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007, launched an attack inside Israel on Oct. 7. As of Oct. 10, over 1,900 people have died in the war.

Aaron Kaufman, the Marcus Family executive director of Penn State Hillel, said the vigil was an important moment to bring Penn State and the Jewish community together to “share our grief and also just show support for each other and our friends of Israel.”

Kaufman said he hopes for a community connection and support for people in Israel and Ukraine.

“Reach out to your Jewish friends and neighbors,” Kaufman said. “Express your support.”

Shiran Ben Zeev, an Israeli postdoctoral scholar, attended the vigil because some of his



Sienna Pinney/Colegian

Hundreds of individuals gathered on Old Main lawn to commemorate those who have died in the latest war between Israel and Hamas.

“loved ones” were kidnapped or died. He said attending the vigil was “the least he could do.”

Carrying an Israeli national flag, Ben Zeev said protecting the flag represents his identity.

He also said the vigil helps people understand what’s happening in Israel.

“It’s important for moral people to support those who maintain morality as their conscience

and follow morality in their conduct,” Ben Zeev said.

Benjamin Himmel also carried an Israeli national flag to the vigil and said the flag is “an extension of the strong relationship”

with the Jewish people and the country.

“(The Israeli) flag represents my identity. I am very proud of (it),” Himmel, a third-year studying Jewish studies and Middle Eastern studies, said. “The State of Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people. It is my home. It is every Jewish person’s home.”

When the war started, Himmel said he was “very scared” and “truly in disbelief.”

Himmel said the vigil showed Jewish people are “strong” and “united in the face of terror.”

Paul Clifford, the chief executive officer of the Penn State Alumni Association, came to the vigil to support Penn Staters affected by the war and the state of Israel.

Clifford said “it’s awful,” and his heart “goes out to other people in the region who are suffering.”

“There’s more that unites us than divides us,” Clifford said. “I never think violence is the answer.”

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GAINES VISITS PENN STATE

By Leonardo Frepoli, Milan Varia & Abigail Shanley
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor's note: Some of the names in this story have been changed to protect the identities of the individuals involved. The Daily Collegian has verified through fact checking these individuals exist.

The Penn State chapter of Turning Point USA and Young Americans for Freedom at Penn State held a Free Speech Rally with Riley Gaines, a former Division I swimmer who speaks out against transgender athletes' inclusion in women's sports.

A counter protest was scheduled at the same time on the HUB-Robeson Center Lawn.

Jack Kentner, one of the main organizers of the event and the president of Young Americans for Freedom at Penn State, said this was a collaborative effort with Turning Point to ensure Gaines would speak on campus.

"We learned that Riley Gaines was going to be speaking with TP USA, and they ran into some trouble," Kentner, a fourth-year studying political science and film production, said. "So we decided to 'collab' since we share similar grievances to hold a freedom of speech rally at the HUB line, a freedom of speech zone."

Kentner said he and his organization tried to promote the event through "word of mouth" and among their "own circles."

According to Kentner, the reasons behind why he believes it's important to bring speakers such as Riley Gaines to campus are "two-fold."

"The first is to highlight the inherent unfairness of trans women being in women's sports because ... the distinction between women's and men's sports doesn't just stop at sex," Kentner said. "We're collaborating to show that freedom of speech is not optional on campus, it furthers intellectual discourse."

Kentner said he hopes that events like this will improve Penn State's recent freedom of speech ranking, which was at 189 or "below average" in comparison to other universities.

According to Kentner, there needs to be "a space where wom-



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

A protestor bangs a water bottle while a woman yells during a speech by Riley Gaines, a former Division 1 swimmer who speaks out against transgender athletes' inclusion in women's sport.

en can break records without competing against transgender women."

"I believe that a third division can be made that's more inclusive to trans individuals, that doesn't come at the expense of biological women," Kentner said. "I do believe, to any trans advocates out there, that that's a more pragmatic solution."

Luke Gosnell, a protester, said when he arrived at the event, he noticed two students being detained by police. These two students were detained for disorderly conduct, according to police.

"Right when I got here, the university was arresting multiple students for seemingly meaningless interactions that happen on this campus all the time, and that is something I am very upset about," Gosnell, a second-year studying political science, said.

Gosnell said he arrived to "protest" the demonstration set up by "the far right people here."

"We shouldn't be allowing this sort of hate speech on campus," Gosnell said.

Henry Han, another protester, said he was at the scene to support a group he was formerly in, the United Socialists at Penn State University.

"I feel like this is a publicity

stunt," Han, a third-year studying computer science, said. "From what I heard, the speaker didn't properly confirm the scheduling with Penn State and is now blaming Penn State for kicking her out."

Eamon Foley, one of the event organizers and the president of Turning Point at Penn State, said he takes "a little responsibility" for the initially scheduled event "falling through."

In response, Foley, a third-year studying economics, said he chose to have the event at the HUB-Robeson Center lawn.

He said Turning Point at Penn State also tried to organize the event at the Flex Theater in the HUB but Foley said university policy requires 30 academic days in advance to start the contract process when inviting public speakers.

"Initially, Turning Point USA, the student group bringing Ms. Gaines to campus, sought indoor space, but did not meet the deadline for submitting the required reservation documents — an expectation upheld for any recognized student organization at Penn State," according to a university statement.

At the event, both Turning Point and Young Americans for Freedom set up their table at the

top of the HUB lawn where Riley Gaines was set to speak.

As part of their demonstration they brought a large "free speech" beach ball where Foley said people could write anything they wanted. There was also a baseball pitching net, where participants could throw a pitch.

"What people can do is they can take one of these baseballs, throw it into the net (and) record the throwing speed," Foley said. "It's supposed to show the distinction between the athletic advantage between men and women."

Around 4:15 p.m., protesters started to gather on the HUB lawn and about 13 protesters stood near the Turning Point and Young Americans for Freedom table holding a large transgender pride flag.

One of the protesters, Winter Parts, took part in the game and pitched a ball onto the net.

After throwing the pitch, Parts, a graduate student studying astronomy, went to the sign and wrote "nonbinary" in the middle of it and recorded their time.

Kathy, who wished to remain anonymous, shared her thoughts about how inviting speakers such as Gaines affects campus life, especially for marginalized communities.

"I just feel that no certain com-

munity should feel as though they are uncomfortable in a space that should be welcome to all people," Kathy said.

Protesters continued to gather until approximately 4:30 p.m., when Turning Point moved in front of the Biobehavioral Health Building.

Once Turning Point and Young Americans relocated, protestors reconvened and chanted "trans lives matter" and "no home for transphobia."

Riley Gaines walked toward the crowd and began her speech while protesters chanted "can't swim" at Gaines, in reference to her career as an NCAA Division I swimmer.

"First and foremost, I think it is important to speak at universities because we need to engage (with) people my age ... to understand the truth," Gaines said.

Gaines also addressed the protestors chanting, "trans lives matter" during her speech.

"They entirely have the right to protest just as I have the right to stand here and advocate what I'm advocating for," Gaines said.

Gaines said she believes the protestors were "emotionally driven" and there is "no science, logic or reason as to what they are advocating for."

Later in the evening, Gaines spoke to a smaller crowd in the Wagner Building and said "a year and a half ago, there wouldn't have been any people there to support because they'd be terrified of putting their face to it or whatever that might be."

"I think, people, not just female athletes, parents, medical professionals, pastors, even ... a lot of people are waking up to the injustice of what's happening," Gaines said.

Gaines shared to the crowd this issue was "about our privacy" and she makes "the argument for a woman" but a lot of times, people "are not willing to accept (it)."

"But what I'm finding is among our generation, among the general public of our generation, we know this has gone too far," Gaines said. "(I'm) just trying to encourage and inspire and embolden people to know that they can speak the truth."



Courtesy of Margalit Roitman

Members of Penn State's Sign Language Organization aim to raise awareness and educate on American Sign Language and Deaf culture.

Sign Language Org raises awareness

By Arya Mehta
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Penn State's Sign Language Organization aims to raise awareness and educate on not only American Sign Language, but also Deaf culture.

Raegan Holzhuter, the vice president of the club, said the club is "focused on spreading awareness about the Deaf community and Deaf culture, which includes the use of sign language."

Holzhuter, a fourth-year studying communication sciences and disorders and Spanish, said the club's weekly meetings teach members some vocabulary and information about Deaf culture.

Mekaeli Cox said the purpose of the club is to be a space on campus where students can come in and learn about ASL and Deaf culture.

Cox, a first-year studying psychology, said the club is welcoming and the members "open it up to anyone."

As president of the club, Avi Adams said she especially likes the ASL events.

Adams, a fourth-year studying elementary and early childhood education, said the club meets for lunch, dinner or coffee as a time for them to practice using ASL and "raise awareness for how deaf people communicate."

Before joining the club, Adams said it was difficult learning ASL because "there weren't many resources that (she) knew about."

"When I got to Penn State, I saw that there was a club for it," Adams said. "That's when I truly fell in love with ASL and Deaf culture and just being an ally."

Cox said she feels like it's a common "misconception" that sign language isn't an official language, but she said "sign language has its own grammar."

"There's a lot of things that are determined by your facial expressions (and) the specific movement of your hand," Holzhuter said. "If you change one thing, it changes the whole meaning of what you are trying to say."

According to Penn State's College of Health and Human Development, ASL courses can "satisfy the World Language Admission Requirement for students who did not complete two units of a single world language other than English prior."

"I think it's a beautiful language," Adams said. "It's very expressive. You can really put a lot of emotion into it."

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New PA voting laws

By Abigail Shanley
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With 65% of Penn State students being in-state residents, many students will no longer need to register to vote, with a new voter registration policy going into effect for the next election cycle.

The new Pennsylvania law will use department of motor vehicles information to automatically register people to vote, and it may have an effect on Penn State students.

Centre County's Director of Elections Beth Lechman said she had reservations about the potential impact of the new DMV data-driven initiative on Penn State students.

"Some (students) are from out of state, so they wouldn't be registering in the state for a driver's license," Lechman said.

"So I don't think it would have a huge impact for the Penn State students."

Penn State College Democrats President Baybar Charkas said he disagreed, and he's "hopeful" for the outcomes of the initiative.

"(College Democrats) support any and all efforts to expand the voter base in Pennsylvania," Charkas, a third-year studying political science, French and Russian, said.

Charkas said the club will "support any efforts or initiatives to recruit voters who will enroll in the voter list."

"Obviously, the vast majority of adults in America drive," Charkas said, "So it makes a lot of sense to use the DMV as a database to recruit voters and to put them on the list."

Charkas said having people registered to vote is just the first step.

"Voter registration is only half the battle," he said. "You have to actually get people out to vote."

Penn State College Democrats have been working with PSU Votes to ensure people make the "second step" by going to vote.

Charkas said this new law will "help have a positive influence on the Penn State campus because it just means that more constituents can vote."

Cecilia Nutter, communications director for the Penn State College Republicans, said this law isn't just a Pennsylvania thing. "There are other states that use this system," Nutter, a first-year studying secondary education social studies, said.

Continue reading here:



Chris Eutsler/Collegian

Many students will no longer need to register to vote for the next election cycle due to a new voter registration law that will use department of motor vehicles information to automatically register people to vote.

Waffle Shop Downtown catches fire

By Amy Schafer & Ellen McIntyre
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Waffle Shop, which is located downtown on College Avenue, caught fire on Tuesday night.

According to Assistant Chief Schreiner of the Centre Region Fire Protection and Alpha Fire Company, there was "heavy smoke" and "fire at the rear of

the building inside."

Calls about the fire were received around 8:38 p.m. Police and firefighters arrived at the scene shortly after and "extinguished the fire immediately," police at the scene said.

According to Schreiner, "within minutes after they gained entry, (a) lieutenant reported that the fire was (extinguished)."

An interior stairwell of the

building was damaged by the fire, and the owners of the building were escorted inside to evaluate the damage, according to Schreiner.

Police began doing "salvage and overhaul and ventilation" Tuesday evening.

The Centre Region Fire Marshal "has been called on the scene to do an origin and cause," according to police at the scene.

Judging the jacks

By Maggie Day
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

At the Penn State Arboretum’s annual Pumpkin Festival, the community carved and decorated pumpkins for the jack-o’-lantern contest.

Leanna Andreello, the events and rentals manager at the Arboretum and the Palmer Museum of Art, said preparation started about three months ago for the festival, though the pumpkins were picked up two weeks prior to the event.

“We went out last Tuesday to the research farm and harvested all the pumpkins you see around the property for decor, along with these mini pumpkins and gourds that we’re selling,” Andreello said.

The Pumpkin Festival staff goes to a pumpkin auction to obtain the larger pumpkins for carving, Andreello said.

“We try to get around 1,000,” she said. “This year, we got just over 600.”

The jack-o’-lantern contest starts a week before the actual date of the festival, where people can choose a pumpkin and take it home. Contestants then have a week to carve before they come



Sienna Pinney/The Daily Collegian

Jack-o’-lanterns were displayed at The Arboretum at Penn State for the annual Pumpkin Festival’s contest, which determines the best community carved and decorated pumpkins.

back to register in one of the contest categories.

The judges, including a kid judge this year, come from all over the community to award first, second and third places in each category, as well as the best pumpkins for each theme.

“It’s a really cool experience to see it all come together from start

to finish,” Andreello said.

Aubrey Tallon, the volunteer program manager for the Arboretum, said about 250 people from the community “make it run.”

“We’re always looking for more people to help us out because the Arboretum really does run on volunteer power,” Tallon said. “It’s a great opportunity for everyone

in the community to get together and work toward a common goal of making a really beautiful, serene place for us all to spend some time outdoors.”

The categories for the jack-o’-lantern contest include different age groups, adults and Penn State students. There are also themes, such as the best Penn

State-themed pumpkin.

“I love to see the really extravagant ones, but I love to see the ones ... that are amateurs,” Andreello said. “I’m an amateur pumpkin carver ... give me the two triangle eyes, a smile, and you’re good.”

For Megan Heineman, this isn’t her first time carving pumpkins.

After hearing about it through her first-year seminar, Heineman, a first-year studying environmental science and resource management, said her plan is to theme her pumpkin around a horror movie, after carving a Pennywise pumpkin last year.

For carving, Heineman has specific strategies.

“Empty the pumpkin, print out a picture, tape it to the pumpkin, fit it flat, poke holes around the corners, take it off and then carve from there,” she said.

Nina Dudas said she planned to use Pinterest for inspiration while carving and was thinking of carving a Penn State-themed pumpkin.

Continue reading here:



Speculating spooky season fits

By Julie Ann Caro
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Throughout the years, Halloween costumes have ranged from extremely creative to just plain basic. However, when the spooky season rolls around, many people are on their toes to see what costumes are overused.

For this Halloween, Erica Ross believed the most popular duo costume will be Barbie and Ken.

“I think so many people were

excited about the ‘Barbie’ movie release,” Ross, a fourth-year student studying broadcast journalism, said. “It’s also a costume people have always done, but now it’s more relevant.”

According to Ross, she also believed there will be less “cliché” movie and television character costumes this year.

“Peaky Blinders was a popular one last year (but) new shows have taken over popularity ratings,” Ross said. “I’m thinking

that there will be less of the Harry Potter or (The) Office characters kind of costumes.”

Similarly to Ross, Mariella Elias said there will be a lot of people dressing up as Barbie and Ken this Halloween.

“It’s the biggest movie of the year so far,” Elias, a second-year student studying English, said. “They’re fun costumes, and there’s so many options to choose from.”

Zak Nashed believed there will be “more group costumes” this year.

“It’s always fun to dress up with your friends,” Nashed, a third-year student studying supply chain and information systems, said.

However, Nashed said he’s most excited to see the pairs of Barbies and Kens.

“Since it’s so popular, people might put their own twist on it,” Nashed said.

A popular costume that Joe Bagala believes people will dress up as is “Oppenheimer.”

“Oppenheimer is going to go crazy,” Bagala, a fourth-year student studying recreation, parks and tourism management, said. “People are gonna dress up as nuclear bombs.”

Bagala is most excited to see the “creativity” of everyone and their costumes.

Instead of Barbie and Ken, Lilly Davis said Barbie herself will be a popular pick.



Sienna Pinney/The Daily Collegian

Pellong Yang, in a banana costume, attends THON 2023 at the Bryce Jordan Center.

“It’s a very popular costume,” Davis, a first-year student studying telecommunications and media industries, said. “I feel like there’s (also) going to be a lot of witches and vampires.”

Similar to Nashed, Davis said she “loves” group costumes and the “creativity” of them.

Every year, Mallory Reitz said there’s a “good amount” of every type of costume.

“There’s the usual vampires and the werewolves,” Reitz, a fourth-year student studying

human development and families studies, said. “I feel like the (most popular costume) will have something to do with Barbie.”

Reitz said she “always likes” seeing duo and group costumes during the spooky holiday.

“I’ve been getting a lot of duo and group inspiration from TikTok recently,” Reitz said. “Anything relating to duo and groups I think would be really fun to see.”

To email reporter: jac7732@psu.edu.
Follow her on X at [@julieann_caro](https://twitter.com/julieann_caro).



Kathy Kmonicek/AP photo

A group of kids in Halloween costumes performed the floss dance in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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64						65					66			
67						68					69			

Across
1 Tusked animal
5 Small drum
10 Dam, as socks
14 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
15 Ancient Greek marketplace
16 State with conviction
17 Knocked off, in a way
18 The equipotential surface of the Earth
19 Mah-jongg piece
20 Before cane or corn
22 Without emotion
24 Recipe direction
26 Nolan or Bridges in the movies
27 Orbital high point
29 Frolics
33 Pulitzer Prize winning Bellow
36 Chowderhead
37 Dawn goddess
38 Germany's Dortmund-____ Canal
39 Video maker, for short
40 Space invaders (Abbr.)
41 Mythical bird
42 Flock leader

44 Hart Trophy winner, 1970-72
45 Puts in stitches
46 Pulsate
47 Largest city in Switzerland
49 Characteristic marketplace
51 Picnic places
54 2008 Seth Rogen, James Franco comedy, "____ Express"
58 Condemns
60 Kind of appeal
61 Think out loud
63 River through Kazakhstan
64 Ancient colonnade
65 Rips to shreds
66 Supermarket section
67 Chinese dynasty
68 Rapunzel feature
69 Shaker contents

Down
1 Anjou alternative
2 Cantina cookers
3 Insurance seller
4 Short end of the stick
5 Kind of team
6 Census data
7 Liquor type, once
8 Camden Yards player
9 Firefighter's need

10 One who accepts charges
11 Dastardly doings
12 1994 Jodie Foster title role
13 Squirrel's nest
21 Pound sound
23 Milely, for one
25 Back biter
28 Bubble source
30 "Encore!"
31 Figurehead's place
32 Bursae
33 Aug. follower
34 Chinese nurse
35 The Beatles' "Back in the ____"
37 Take ____ (travel)
39 Snake charmer's snake
40 Be off base
43 Carryall
44 Preliminary plan
45 Burial garments
47 Slide fastener
48 Scoundrel
50 To the left, at sea
52 Divided land
53 Like some talk
54 "Hey, over here!"
55 Enthusiastic about
56 When shadows are short
57 Means justifiers
59 Skirt feature
62 Grand Prix feature

Word Search

Investing

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

Advisors
Annuity
Bear
Blue Chip
Broker
Bull
Cash
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Earnings
Economy
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The rules are easy:

A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it.
A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it.
You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit can only be used once in any sequence.

Board of Editors gives tips to beat burnout

With the semester in full swing, academic calendars are growing clustered and students are feeling flustered.

To persist through this semester peak, The Daily Collegian Board of Editors shared tips on how students can prioritize their well-being and work-balance as burnout creeps in.

Nick Stonesifer, Editor-in-Chief

I am a journalist; I am chronically burned out. One thing I do to keep myself sane is spend time away from my responsibilities and wallow in my life choices. But for real though, take a break. Enjoy your life — it’s not that deep.

Olivia Estright, Managing Editor

Why beat burnout when you can basque in it? Just ride the wave of stress and anxiety through the finish line. It’s better for the plot, and at some point along the way, you’ll realize it’s not that deep.

Sophia Montanye, Digital Managing Editor

In our day and age it’s so easy to get caught in burnout as we’re always left comparing our professional or academic careers to those we see online, making us work more. At the end of the day, it’s important to remember social media is a highlight reel. Take a deep breath and give yourself time to enjoy hobbies or time with friends instead of overworking yourself.

Amy Schafer, News Editor

Like many others, I’ve struggled with pushing through mid-semester burnout. I advise students to make time for themselves. It can be hard to prioritize alone or social time with your friends, but taking a break to relax for a bit every day can often increase productivity in the long run. Remember that you always have friends there to support you.

Ella Castronuovo, News Editor

It’s my first semester in an editing position and this new role has brought a new perspective, better time management skills and unexpected challenges. Admittedly, up until a couple weeks ago, I had absolutely no work-life balance. I’d stay up prioritizing my work over my sleep and even skipped meals to meet deadlines. If I’ve learned one thing, it’s that students need to set boundaries. Whether that’s being off your phone at night or buying yourself a sweet treat every Friday, do it.

Fernanda López, Lifestyle Editor

Mid-semester burnout is universal and for some, inevitable. My only advice is to keep pushing and to hope for better days. Keep hanging on and find something to look forward to, as life will become exciting again.

Milan Varia, Lifestyle Editor

Facing burnout is tough, and I want students to know they’re not alone in feeling exhausted and depressed. To solve this, I choose to reflect: I grab a piece of

paper and write about my small and big recent accomplishments, things that I’m working on and things that I’ve struggled with, emotionally, physically and mentally. Reflecting on this gives me a lot of perspective and helps me feel grounded in our stressful world.

Liam Wichser, Sports Editor

As work begins to pile up, many of us are anxious about how on earth we will get it all done. For someone like myself, I lose attention quickly and need to find ways to avoid burning out too quickly. The biggest thing I focus on is allowing time to do the things that I enjoy as a way to destress; going for a walk to listen to music, hanging out with friends or working out. These little breaks help me to push forward and realize the bigger picture in life: Everything will work itself out.

Daniel Perez, Sports Editor

Last year, I had terrible burnout. I was just doing too much without giving enough time for what really mattered: me. Now, I take the time to relax — whether that be watching a show or reading a book. We’re so worried about how much we need to do that we forget to, as Ferris Bueller said, “stop and look around once in a while.”

Seth Engle, Football Editor

To avoid mid-semester burnout, I think it’s important to remember you’ll always feel better and more accomplished by

knocking out your work. Try waking up early or trying new habits to break out of a funk. Also, focusing on the things you love will make small tasks seem easier.

Anjelica Rubin, Features and Investigations Editor

Truthfully, I don’t believe any of us can totally avoid mid-semester burnout. So, my tip would be to recognize and accept that — or stay delusional. Whatever works for you I guess. Put on some headphones to listen to your favorite artists, songs or podcasts and take a walk outside. There’s not much else in this world that helps me get through any type of burnout like a long walk does.

Jackson Ranger, Photo Editor

When trying to avoid burnout, I focus my attention on things that help me unwind while also feeling productive. Going to the gym or playing sports with my friends on the weekend helps me release a lot of my stress while also working on my personal health. Once you start carving out a bit of personal time for yourself each day, it will take you a lot longer to feel burned out.

Sienna Pinney, Photo Editor

When the middle of the semester hits, the burnout often does, too. The remedy that works best for me is scheduling breaks and social time to look forward to amidst all the deadlines and stress. Social life and fun plans are pink in my calendar — making it easy to visualize something

relaxing ahead. I also have a playlist of songs that are easy to listen to and won’t feed into the negative emotions that might come with the mid-semester slump.

Brenanne Axelson, Multimedia Editor

One thing I like to do to take a break and destress from the mid-semester pileup is watching movies. With the mid-semester mark in October, this is the perfect time to watch my favorite fall or Halloween movie. It’s important for students to take a break from school work every now and then.

Alex Osman, Multimedia Editor

For me, avoiding burnout is about finding time in my day for myself — usually I do this by going to the gym. I always do this, but when the semester gets intense, I take special care to block out an hour or so every day where nothing else matters, and it helps me reset before tackling whatever I need to tackle.

Olivia Woodring, Opinion Editor

When facing burnout, it’s important for students to seize the moment with a growth mindset. Savor the highs and the lows, as both will present you with new opportunities and outlooks. Give yourself grace, as you’re not alone in learning to navigate mid-semester stress. Everything will work out, so just focus on putting your best foot forward.

MY VIEW | LUKE VARGAS

University Park has a bike problem

Penn State’s campus is horrible to drive through: That’s how it was designed to be.

Cars can’t invade campus sidewalks, but bicycles, on the other hand, have become a huge problem on University Park walkways.

The walkability of campus was an intentional design choice. Past university administration made it a point as the campus expanded out from Old Main that it should be more walkable — not driveable or bikeable.

Where other campuses around the country struggle with over accessibility to vehicles, Penn State’s grounds prioritize foot traffic. In turn, Happy Valley has a more aesthetically pleasing experience.

The rise of electric scooters, electric skateboards, Onewheels, electric bikes and normal bicycles have turned campus walkways from a pleasant walk to class to a free-for-all frenzy.

Students walking through heavily trafficked areas or near the few inroads through campus, like Pollock Road, need to keep their heads on a constant swivel.

Bikes, boards and scooters are whizzing about, weaving through traffic and disregarding stop signs and crosswalks alike.

Traffic on the road is certainly more chaotic with the diversity of vehicles flying about, but the sidewalk is where things are worse.

One of the best places to walk through campus is from the Allen Street Gate to the Pattee and Paterno Library. The towering trees overhead, the black-painted chains lining the paths and the green space — it’s all incredibly scenic.

This is the most dangerous part of campus for pedestrians.

It’s here at a major campus artery where the road meets the walking path that things have

gotten out of control.

There are bikers riding down the hill to College Avenue dodging students just trying to get to class.

The crosswalk where Pollock Road passes in front of the library feels like a coin flip: Is today the day I get nailed by a rogue electric biker?

Despite the stop signs and the mass of students passing through this area, dozens of riders fly through the intersection on their way to class.

Pollock Road was closed off to all traffic on Monday because of construction near the HUB-Robeson Center. Although

the roadblock clearly deterred cars, it opened an invitation for bikers, scooter riders and skateboarders to mount the curb and navigate through congested walking paths.

Students should never feel unsafe walking to class. There should never be daily

near-collisions on campus sidewalks.

They’re sidewalks, walk ways. Penn State’s campus was designed to be walked through.

The solution shouldn’t be hefty fines or tickets from administration — students and faculty need to solve this problem from within.

All roads should be reserved for vehicle traffic, where they belong, and sidewalks for the walkers.

If someone needs to bike through campus, they should do it between class periods where there’s not copious bodies to dodge.

To students who bike to campus each day, the bike racks are located near the roads for a reason. Dismount, lock up your vehicle and walk to class.

Luke Vargas is a senior majoring in digital and print journalism and Spanish and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at ldv5040@psu.edu or follow him on X at [@lukeevargas](https://twitter.com/lukeevargas).

als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them.

During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

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Spotlight, the official Daily Collegian app for smartphones.

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About the Collegian

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

Making history (en español)

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Nittany Lions had a clash with Ohio State on Sunday. The squad won 2-1, but there was a bigger story being told in this contest.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

With listeners tuning in from all over, commentators Carlos Garcia and Juan Mendez announced the first ever Spanish-language broadcast in a historical moment for sports broadcasting at State College. According to the commentators, this production has been in the works for a while. Ever since the two got into broadcasting, they were itching for an opportunity to announce in Spanish.

What started as a segment spoken in Spanish for Penn State Sports Night earlier in their college careers evolved into something much bigger.

"This has been a long time coming," Mendez, a fourth-year studying broadcast journalism, said.

Gary Abdullah, the assistant dean for Diversity and Inclusion at Penn State, said he's believed in them since their first year and knew big things were in store.

"This is viable and a possible thing. Keep your head down, and keep working," Abdullah said. "To see them prove themselves with the work they have been doing — that's the dope thing that I have gotten to see over time with them."

The seniors called the 1 p.m. showdown at Jeffrey Field in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.

"We (were) super excited and grateful to have the opportunity," Garcia, a fourth-year



Steven Walter/Penn State Athletics photo

Penn State students Juan Mendez and Carlos Garcia announced the first-ever Spanish broadcast in the Big Ten.

studying broadcast journalism, said. "Just to showcase not only what the talent can do in the Bellisario College, but the minority and Hispanic students — just a great opportunity to do during Hispanic Heritage Month."

Big Ten Network aired the broadcast for this special occasion. Not only was this event the first broadcast of another language for Penn State, it was the first time in Big Ten history that something of this stature was produced, according to the Penn State women's soccer social media.

"With Hispanic Heritage Month, it's an opportunity to celebrate the Hispanic people in our country and to use our platform to highlight this group," coach Erica Dambach said.

Both Garcia and Mendez were destined for the broadcasting spotlight and credit Penn State and Bellisario for shaping them

into the announcers they are today.

"The Bellisario College has tons of resources and all the networking and alumni who have thrown their hat into the ring to push and support us," Garcia said. "This is the place where it has landed me."

At Penn State, there are numerous opportunities for students to get involved in real broadcasting productions. Both Garcia and Mendez credit CommRadio, a student-run, web-based radio station, for helping improve their ability as broadcasters.

"(I'm) just immensely grateful

for CommRadio, being on all the sports schedules and calling the numerous games dating back to freshman year," Garcia said.

"It has prepared myself for this opportunity."

With the duo making its mark on history during this matchup, they hope this isn't the end of a broadcast being covered in a different language at State College. The pair is hoping for a new era to take place.

"I hope it can happen just as often as possible for any sport and any network," Mendez said. "We definitely want this to be a snowball effect."

College has and all the
"It spreads more awareness and creates a bigger audience for Penn State and for the Big Ten Network to showcase we can bring you the best in English and another language"

Juan Mendez
Commentator

They touched on the impact of calling the game in Spanish as well as it being soccer and why it was so important to them.

"Spanish is one of the most spoken languages in the world, and soccer is the most viewed sport in the world," Garcia said. "It spreads more awareness and creates a bigger audience for Penn State and for the Big Ten Network to showcase we can bring you the best in English and another language."

When the graphic of Garcia and Mendez was posted on X, formerly known as Twitter, Mendez ran into Abdullah's office to show him.

Abdullah said he grinned from ear-to-ear at this and reflected on the storybook ending for the fourth-years coming to fruition.

"It's like a Rudy moment, almost like a Disney story type of thing," Abdullah said. "Now I just need the credits to scroll in and the text that comes up afterwards and tells us how they went on to greatness."

He reflected on how proud he was of them and how deserving they were of this opportunity. The duo has grown during their time at Penn State, and he's excited for what they have in store.

"I think their future really has very little bounds on it," Abdullah said. "The sky really is the limit."

With their call of the women's soccer game, Garcia and Mendez put a stamp on the history in sports announcing.

"To be able to represent our culture and people, we'll hopefully have this happen more and encourage broadcasters to do things like this," Mendez said. "It's such a cool thing and means so much to me — to us."

To email reporter: lca5223@psu.edu.
Follow him on X at @LAlenstein.

ALL THE DOGS

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With Drake's eighth studio album "For All the Dogs" dropping last Friday, there seems to be a parallel between the album and the Penn State Athletics community — though it may not be noticeable to the typical Drake fan.

Here are four songs from the album that clearly represent Happy Valley sports.

"Calling For You (feat. 21 Savage)": Mike Rhoades, Ace Baldwin Jr. and Nick Kern

Penn State lost almost its entire roster from a season ago as Micah Shrewsberry headed for Notre Dame, players left to transfer and the draft.

It was time for a roster overhaul.

The Nittany Lions were calling Rhoades for the head coaching job and delivered, bringing his talent from VCU with him in Baldwin Jr. and Kern.

In the opening verse, Drake said, "If you want it, you can have it." The blue and white has given Rhoades the green light in revamping the program as he made an immediate splash in the rebuild.

Rhoades brought in his guys from VCU as well as bringing in an arsenal of weapons from the transfer portal and future recruits.

With an NBA-ready talent in Baldwin Jr. and an elite wing in Kern, the Nittany Lions didn't

just rebuild, they reloaded.

"First Person Shooter (feat. J. Cole)": Jess Mruzik

Drizzy opens up the first verse saying, "Big as the what? Big as the Super Bowl," showing the massive impact that Mruzik has on her squad.

Mruzik has been the "first person" that comes to mind when her team needs a big play.

The "shooter" has totaled 235 kills, which is third in the Big Ten.

When it was J. Cole's turn to spit some bars, he dropped, "I'm lettin' it rock 'cause I love the mystique." The outside hitter has been "lettin' it rock" as she's won Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week twice, making those who watch her in awe of her breathtaking play.

"Drew A Picasso": Coach Guy Gadowsky

When "6 God" titled this piece, he referenced late artist Pablo Picasso. Picasso crafted art that's longevity has lasted to modern day.

Like Picasso, Gadowsky has cultivated something that will stick with Penn State men's hockey for a long time. That something the fearless leader cooked up is "culture."

Aubrey addresses Gadowsky's wisdom in his installment of culture within the team when he delivers, "You cannot find no one better than this." Now entering his 25th season coaching the Nittany Lions, Gadowsky has had a

successful time leading in State College.

His team has reached the NCAA tournament three times in the last six seasons along with totaling five of the last eight seasons with at least 20 wins.

Drake again refers to the team's identity of "culture" when he said, "We didn't get here on accident," as the team's triumph and bond together is a testament of how it pushes one another on and off the ice.

"IDGAF (feat. Yeat)": Nittanyville

A small civilization that lives in Beaver Stadium goes by the name of Nittanyville. Those that claim residency cause utter chaos to teams that dare compete with their Nittany Lions.

They certainly don't give a f--- what it takes for Penn State to come out victorious.

The song does have a mistake in one of the lyrics. In the intro, it stated, "You only touched a hundred thou." Try 10,000 more people, Yeat.

In this year's White Out, the State College community made itself heard, garnering the second-largest attendance in Beaver Stadium history: 110,830.

When it's Yeat's turn to deliver, he rapped the verse, "I say whatever I want, yeah, I do whatever I want, huh." start.

Continue reading here:



Katelyn Supanick/Collegian

Penn State women's volleyball team celebrates its win during the Penn State vs. Ohio State game at Rec Hall.

The Lion's Way

By Daniel Perez & Liam Wischer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor's Note: The Lion's Way is a series written by The Daily Collegian's sports editors that will review the best Penn State athletes each week. This list will not include football.

Who let the dogs out?

When Drake dropped "For All the Dogs" on Friday, he wanted to reach out to everyone who has the dog in them.

These three multifaceted athletes were the dogs in which Drake dropped the album for, unleashing on their teams.

With that, here's the team of the week that stood out from the other top-tier Penn State teams.

Women's Volleyball

Following a shaky start to the season, Penn State has turned things around on the court, currently sitting on an eight-match winning streak.

The No. 14 team in the nation picked up two conference wins over the weekend, taking down Indiana and No. 24 Ohio State — both in five sets.

As Big Ten play heats up, look for the Nittany Lions to continue its grittiness on the court in the search for a conference championship.

The blue and white will travel to Iowa City, Iowa, Friday for a battle with the Hawkeyes, followed by a quick turn around with a clash against Nebraska Saturday.

Mackenzie Allesie and Sophia Gladeux, field hockey

For the first time in The Lion's Way, there are two players from

the same team getting the spotlight.

Mackenzie Allesie and Sophia Gladeux together is a better combination than PB&J — both multi-faceted stars.

On Friday, Allesie and Gladeux each garnered one goal and assist in the upset over then-No. 6 Ohio State, injecting a much-needed win to boost the team's morale coming off of back-to-back losses.

These two star-studded players will be a staple down the Big Ten stretch to finish off the season.

Ryan Kirwan, men's hockey

The Penn State season kicked off Saturday with a 3-2 road victory over Long Island.

Among the difference makers for the blue and white was forward Ryan Kirwan. Kirwan added an assist and scored a goal in the season opener — a very productive way to begin his junior campaign.

The DeWitt, New York, native looks to see a more prominent role for the Nittany Lions this season and has immediately made his mark on the unit after just one game this year.

Kirwan will look to continue his hot start as Penn State travels to Potsdam, New York, to take on Clarkson Friday night, followed by a trip to Canton, New York, to take on St. Lawrence on Saturday.

Continue reading here:



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

Mike Rhoades enters Beaver Stadium before the 2023 Blue-White game. Rhoades was hired as Penn State's men's basketball coach after Micah Shrewsberry departed for Notre Dame in March.

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