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21 YEARS LATER



Cindy Song

MISSING SINCE: November 01, 2001
LAST SEEN: State College, Pennsylvania
HEIGHT: 60.0 to 61.0 in
WEIGHT: 115.0 to 120.0 lbs
SEX: Female

Diving into the decades-long case of missing Penn State student Cindy Song

By James Engel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Before Nov. 1, 2001, if you sent an email to “hjs127@psu.edu,” you may have begun a conversation with a young woman about any number of topics.

You might have spoken about Van Gogh’s paintings, magazines or the ocean — some of her “likes.”

If you were more interested in pop culture, you might have spoken about Lenny Kravitz or the then-relatively new “The Matrix” — some of her favorite sources of entertainment.

If things got more aspirational, she may have even revealed that she intended to become “a famous, popular, rich, talented graphic and fashion designer,” which you may have assumed from her integrative arts major — an uncommon course of study designed by students.

Things, however, could’ve turned sour if you were revealed to be a “faker,” a “liar” or a “cheap ass” — some of her greatest “dislikes.”

But since Nov. 1, 2001, it has been impossible to have any of those conversations with Hyun Jong Song, better known at Penn State as Cindy.

And the only place to find her likes, dislikes and aspirations is from those who knew her or from her old blog filled with poems and dead links.

Cindy Song was born Feb. 25, 1980, in South Korea, and she spent most of her life there before moving to live with family in Alexandria, Virginia.

There, she attended Hayfield Secondary School for about a year and half. She then transferred to Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal, Virginia, where she graduated in 1998.

Neither institution retains any teaching staff with memory of Song, according to the schools.

She came to Penn State in 1998 to study integrative arts, and she quickly joined the Korean Undergraduate Student Association, the American Red Cross and Advertising Club.

Like many students, she had

an apartment, worked a job and dated.

And on Oct. 31, Halloween, she dressed up with her roommates and Penn State at-large to celebrate the holiday on a Wednesday night.

Her chosen costume was a white skirt with white bunny ears, and her chosen destination was the Player’s Night Club, now The Basement Nightspot.

After a fairly typical night at the club and some video games later with friends, her roommate Stacy Paik dropped her off at her apartment in what is now Alight State College on Blue Course Drive.

Paik, in the early hours after Halloween, is the last known person to have seen Song as she walked up to Apartment 363.

The next day, Paik reported Song missing, though she mentioned that short absences weren’t entirely uncharacteristic of Song.

But after missing shifts at the Seoul Garden Korean Restaurant — where The Koop: Korean Chicken and Cuisine now sits — the fears of her friends were more concrete, though some hope was still held out that Song was simply on an impromptu absence.

“I guess that’s what we’re all hoping,” Paik said a week after the disappearance. “We really have no clue.”

The search for Song by Ferguson Township police began fairly immediately with Detective Brian Sprinkle as the case’s lead investigator.

Sprinkle denied a request for an interview by The Daily Collegian for this story.

Since Song’s apartment was in Ferguson Township’s jurisdiction, the case fell to the township instead of State College borough.

Together with other officers at Ferguson, Sprinkle began with the basics.

A run-away situation or voluntary absence was essentially ruled out as unlikely for lack of motive and the material situation of Song’s apartment.

“She’s already registered for classes next semester. She had a computer ordered... she had Britney Spears tickets — I truly do not believe that was the case

with her,” Lt. Drew Clemson of Ferguson police said at the time.

Though Sprinkle did much of the investigative work at the time, the detective retired from the force in 2011, leaving the open case to Detective Jonathan Mayer.

Mayer was sworn in as a Ferguson patrol officer in 2006 and became a detective five years later, he said, meaning he wasn’t at all involved in the case’s initial investigation.

He was, however, a student intern with the Ferguson Police Department at the time of Song’s disappearance, though he said this didn’t allow him any involvement in police work on the case.

Mayer described Sprinkle as a “good investigator” and a “hard worker,” seeing him as a colleague and a mentor for much of his career in Ferguson.

“When he was here, he was very dedicated to the job,” Mayer said about Sprinkle. “I know this case was very frustrating for him because he wanted to be able to provide answers to the family, and he wasn’t able to do that.”

According to Mayer, the investigation began by conducting interviews, which numbered into the hundreds as years progressed.

Bloodhounds and search parties, he said, were sent into the woods and other areas surrounding Song’s apartment with no results.

Once investigators gained access to Song’s apartment, Mayer said police found “no [evidence

of] struggle or disarray.”

A theory, which still remains prominent, is that Song decided to venture to one of the 24-hour grocery stores like Giant or Walmart located near her apartment, encountering something on the way. But no evidence could be supplied to prove this, he said.

“As far as I can tell, all the people who were close to Cindy were interviewed, and there was no evidence to show any of them were involved,” Mayer said.

Evidence being sparse in Ferguson, students began to gather together on campus to do what they could to aid in the search for Song.

While the case was surely gaining traction as missing person posters began to appear, Assata Richards called her colleague and friend David Davis to discuss Song’s disappearance and what more could be done.

This phone call was the beginning of what would ultimately become the “Coalition to Find Cindy Song,” Richards said.

Richards, a graduate student at the time, now serves as an instructor for the University of Houston’s Arts Leadership Program, and Davis, then an undergraduate student, is now a consulting and organization lead at Accenture, an international IT and consulting firm.

The two were both prominent in Penn State Black Caucus and graduated in 2004, three years later.

The coalition, during its existence, had two general goals,

according to Richards.

The first was to offer guidance to Asian student groups as they mustered support in their search for Song, and the other was to keep continued pressure on the university to support the Song family and utilize its resources and influence in the search, she said.

Davis and Richards were both deeply involved in the long saga of “The Village,” a 10-day sit-in protest against racial violence and discrimination in the HUB-Robeson Center.

Using this experience, the two said they had experience being their own advocates and dealing with a sometimes hostile university administration.

“If one student goes missing, to me, that’s a crisis,” Richards said. “If you are a family and one of your children does not come home, life doesn’t just go on.”

The university, at least in interactions with the press, however, seemed to be just as confused as its student body.

“This case is just so baffling,” Bill Mahon, a Penn State spokesperson said about a month after the disappearance. “A student is here in town one day and then gone the next... it’s hard to guess what would help.”

But on Dec. 5, 2001, 35 days after Song was last seen, Ferguson police investigated its first promising lead — a tip from Philadelphia.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Collegian file photo

Ban Soon Song, mother of Cindy Song, joins students for a candlelight vigil. “Cindy would have been graduating this May if she were here,” Ban Soon said through an interpreter in the spring of 2002.

COMMUNITY OPPOSES CASINO

By Danny Gotwals
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A group of State College community members have spoken out against a Nittany Mall casino proposed by the former chair of Penn State's Board of Trustees Ira Lubert.

SC Gaming OpCo, led by Lubert, won a license auction on Sept. 2, 2020, which gave it the opportunity to develop a "mini casino" in an area, including College Township.

Lubert, in cooperation with Bally's Corporation, plans to develop the casino in the Nittany Mall at the location of the former Macy's.

During a hearing of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board in August 2021, Lubert presented his case to the board and to the public.

Lubert, a Penn State graduate in 1973, described himself as a "longtime member of the State College community."

Lubert said he sees State College as "a local community in need of additional economic engines."

The Nittany Mall has been the victim of online shopping, Lubert said.

Lubert said he believes a casino would draw more businesses to the mall and the surrounding area, which will create jobs and "drive the region's economy forward."

Lubert also developed the Valley Forge Casino Resort outside of Philadelphia.

Andrew Shaffer has been at the forefront of a local movement to stop the development of Lubert's casino.

Shaffer said he opposes the casino partly because gambling addiction can affect a greater portion of college students and young adults than the general population.

People who are concerned they may have a gambling addiction may place themselves in a self-exclusion program, which will forbid them from entering a casino, according to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Shaffer, a software developer at Penn State's Applied Research Lab, has lived in State College ever since his freshman year at Penn State in 1999. He has a wife and two children.

Shaffer said the majority of the anti-casino movement's actions have been documented at the



Danny Gotwals/Collegian

The former chair of Penn State's Board of Trustees Ira Lubert proposed plan for a casino in the former location of Macy's at the Nittany Mall in State College, Pa.

Say No to the Nittany Mall Casino website.

The website noted that over 1,000 messages opposing the casino were sent to the Gaming Control Board before its feedback deadline of June 12.

Shaffer said he and several others he recruited started both an online and a "hard-copy petition" where they knocked on neighbors' doors to get their feedback. They found that the community members they talked to opposed the casino at a rate of 9-to-1.

He said they gathered over 3,300 distinct signatures for the online and hard-copy petitions combined.

The Gaming Control Board won't hear new arguments until at least Dec. 14.

Shaffer pointed to the board's denial of a license to build a casino near Gettysburg in 2017. Shaffer said the anti-casino movement garnered national opposition.

Eric Pearson, the prospective CEO and general manager of the new casino and former general manager of Valley Forge Casino Resort, said at the hearing, the Nittany Mall is only 50% occupied.

The casino would feature 750 slot machines and 30 table games, as well as a sports book and a sports-themed restaurant and bar with live entertainment, according to Pearson.

The casino would provide an estimated 500 construction jobs,

as well as 350-400 permanent jobs along with "dynamic career growth opportunities," Pearson said.

Pearson said he "grew up" in the casino business. His mother was a cocktail waitress, and his father was a hospitality manager.

He said he started bussing casino restaurant tables himself when he was 16 and has never left the industry. "The casino entertainment business offers so many great opportunities that you can come in at an entry-level position, and you can work your way up," Pearson said.

Pearson said these opportunities are becoming more limited, and there are many other casino executives who started at "line-level positions."

"Because I took that path personally, it has very strongly influenced how I manage and... how I run casino properties," he said.

Pearson said the casino will provide additional tax revenue for College Township.

Pearson also said all employees will complete annual "responsible gaming training."

Shaffer argued that while Lubert said the casino will create jobs and bring revenue into the region, the casino will instead draw revenue that would be spent at other State College businesses.

Shaffer said over half of that revenue will leave Centre County in the form of taxes and revenue

for Bally's Corporation. He described the proposed casino as a "drain" as opposed to a "boost."

The casino would also bring more crime to the area, thus lowering property values, Shaffer said. Casinos have already brought an increase in crime in other Pennsylvania towns like York, he said.

Shaffer said Penn State has a conflict of interest regarding the casino.

Lubert previously served on Penn State's Board of Trustees, ending his tenure as its chair. In 2017, Lubert donated \$5 million to be used for endowment scholarships and renovations to the Lasch Football Building.

Lubert was also on Penn State's Presidential Recruitment and Selection Committee, which selected Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi.

"[Lubert] definitely has a lot of say, and people hear him when he speaks," Shaffer said.

Lubert appointed current Penn State Trustee Richard Sokolov as a vice president of SC Gaming.

Sokolov also chaired the "A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence" fundraising campaign. Sokolov donated \$8.3 million himself toward the campaign.

Shaffer said Lubert's casino doesn't belong in Pennsylvania because its gambling market is "already saturated."

'Til the cows come home

By Cearra O'Hern
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For those who regularly drive outside of the downtown State College area, cows roaming green pastures isn't an unusual sight.

It may be surprising to learn that most of the milk and other dairy served on Penn State's campus comes from these cows.

The Penn State Dairy Barns are located just steps from Beaver Stadium and are home to approximately 500 animals.

Complete with at least eight different facilities, the barns aspire to teach those interested in agriculture and caring for animals.

Officially titled the Dairy Research and Education Center, the facility focuses greatly on agricultural research, according to student employee Katerina Coffman.

"The Dairy Barns' purpose is to do research that's going to better equip industry leaders with emerging technologies that we can use to better manage our animals so that they're more comfortable and profitable in a sense of producing more milk or more components that we can turn into products," Coffman (sophomore-animal science) said.

Coffman also said education is another priority of the Dairy Barns.

"Most kids are three to four

generations removed from a family farm or any type of agricultural background," Coffman said. "For a lot of students who are looking at going to [veterinary] school or working with animals because they love them, they need some sort of place where they can practice and be equipped with the skill set that they need."

Co-manager of Penn State Dairy Barns Nadine Houck said student education and the work done at the barns are intertwined.

"Dairy management classes do hands-on labs out here, learning how to care for dairy cows and being taught the science that goes into feeding dairy cows," Houck said. "Animal science classes and even food science classes will come out here for tours."

For the employees of the Dairy Barns, the morning shift begins at 5 a.m., according to Houck.

"All the cows get fed in the morning," Houck said. "Our crew comes in and begins milking. We milk a herd of 230 Holstein dairy cattle."

After the process of feeding and milking is finished, Houck said employees complete other necessary tasks, such as cleaning barns, performing maintenance on equipment or preparing feed for the next day.

Houck said the barns usually quiet down around 9 p.m., but some employees aren't off the clock just yet.

"We do have students that live

here at the facility. Eight students live in dorms above the main office," Houck said. "One of them comes out at 11 p.m. and does a walk-through, checks all the barns and makes sure everything's OK."

Student employee Mason Nas is one of the eight students who live at the Dairy Barns.

"There was a senior in the Dairy Science Club that I got talking with, and he told me that there's an opening at the Dairy Barns to live and work there," Nas (sophomore-plant science) said. "I was interested in that opportunity of living here along with working here."

Nas said he has a farm background and has worked in the dairy industry for about 10 years. When deciding to work at the Dairy Barns, he said he wanted to continue that work and further his knowledge of dairy production and herd management.

Nas said he "helps out a little bit everywhere" at the Dairy Barns, doing chores like milking and moving cows, feeding calves and giving vaccines.

"I've learned a lot about dairy farming and herd management," Nas said. "[The Dairy Barns] give people insight on what goes on at a dairy farm — not only here at Penn State but across the state. It teaches people about raising dairy cattle and the care for them and what all is involved in getting milk from the cow to their table."

Houck said the milk produced at the Dairy Barns is found throughout the Penn State community.

"About half to two-thirds of the milk that we produce here goes to the [Berkey Creamery] on campus," Houck said. "That is the milk in the dining halls and used to make ice cream that the Creamery produces."

Coffman said she feels like her "truest self" when she walks into the Dairy Barns.

"With Penn State being such a large campus, it was important for me to find a place that I could kind of call my own," Coffman said. "Working at the barns gave me that sense of home that I really needed when I got here."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Graphic by Carson Schultz

Some Penn State students discussed their Thanksgiving favorites, including stuffing, mac and cheese, and pie.

Thanksgiving food staples

By Olivia Woodring
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With only two weeks left of classes before fall break, students across Penn State are anticipating all of the food they'll eat this Thanksgiving.

Gabriel Rodriguez said Thanksgiving is an "all-day festivity" for his family.

"I usually go to my brother's house with my sister-in-law's family and relatives from my family," Rodriguez (junior-accounting) said.

Naomi Davis also explained her family's traditions — which consist of a "huge dinner" and an all-day football watching marathon.

"My parents fry the turkey. It is this huge thing," Davis (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. "The turkey is usually really good."

Faith Finch said she and her family begin the morning by watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

"We must watch it, or else my mom will throw a fit," Finch said. "Then we cook all day and have an early dinner with a bunch of our family at our house."

Abigail Schmitt, unlike Davis, said she's "not a huge turkey fan."

"The turkey is just too dry for me," Schmitt (junior-architectural engineering) said. "My family never makes it right, I guess."

Some families don't cook turkeys at all on Turkey Day.

"My family doesn't like turkey,

"All the people who want to gamble can gamble easily. They don't even have to go to casinos. They can gamble online if they want to," he said.

Shaffer referenced a Philadelphia Inquirer article from December 2021 that says four new casinos have opened since 2019, yet state-wide brick-and-mortar gambling revenue only increased by 3.6%.

Shaffer said this means each casino is only receiving 78% of its previous revenue, on average.

By and large, the new casinos didn't attract new gamblers, Shaffer said — they only attracted gamblers who were already going to other casinos.

Shaffer said smaller towns like Shippensburg, which will have a Parx Casino opening in 2023, cannot support casinos the same way larger cities like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia can.

When casinos can't turn a profit, they often turn to state governments for tax relief, Shaffer said.

Bally's Corporation recently sued two towns in Rhode Island, claiming its property taxes should be lowered due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Politicians will say the casinos need to stay open so workers don't lose their jobs, Shaffer said.

After the tax relief, "[the states] are no longer getting the revenue in taxes they had been promised [by the casino developers] to begin with, which is the whole reason why they allowed the casinos in the first place," Shaffer said.

Shaffer said the new casino won't attract tourism from around the state because there are already casinos in all of the major population centers.

According to Shaffer, that means the revenue will almost entirely come from Centre County, with much of it not being recirculated into the State College economy.

Randolph Hudson of State College said College Township made a mistake when it chose not to opt out from being a potential location for a casino in 2017.

The township "did not do its due diligence on what the community wants," Hudson said.

He said the jobs the new casino would create are "low-wage jobs" with high turnover, mainly housekeeping, deliveries and the like.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Ella Freda/Collegian

A dairy cow eats feed at the Penn State Dairy Barns in State College, Pa.

Veterans learn to ‘integrate’

By Olivia Estright
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For 15 years of his life, Penn State student veteran Matt Keenan acted as an intelligence specialist in the U.S. Navy. His 20s were spent in Afghanistan and Iraq, collecting and analyzing classified data.

Now, at 33 years old, Keenan (senior-anthropology) spends his weekdays pursuing an undergraduate degree and “integrating into a new identity.”

“I can handle it,” Keenan said. Keenan, his wife Brittany and their dog Dwight have started the transition back into civilian life with the help of Penn State, they said.

Brittany (junior-nutritional sciences) said she and Matt met in the Navy A School, which is the school where individuals undergo technical training.

After graduating high school, Brittany said she heard rumors that the military would pull her out of school — something she “later learned as being false.”

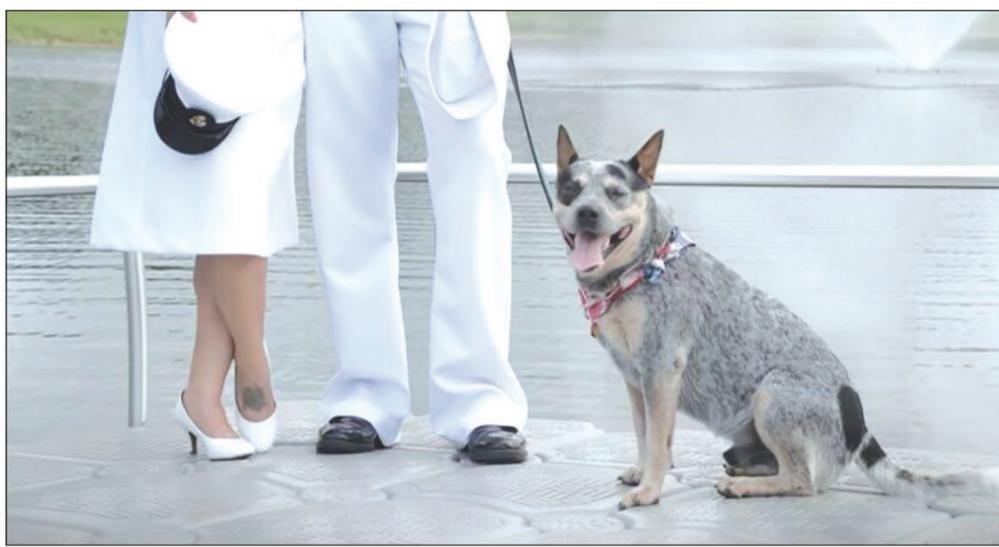
“It was 2007, which was when the military was surging its forces because there was such a loss in Iraq,” Brittany said.

Throughout her time in the military, Brittany was also an intelligence specialist but said she only worked with Matt once.

Though Matt and Brittany spent time apart while serving, they said they did anything they could to adapt to the distance.

“You just find ways to stay busy and try to understand that your time together is precious when you do get it,” Brittany said.

When she was away from Matt, Brittany said she picked up more



Courtesy of Patricia Velez

Matt Keenan and his wife Brittany met in the Navy before they came to Penn State to pursue degrees. “I went from managing people and feeling important to not having a purpose,” Brittany said about the pandemic.

work responsibilities and stayed later.

“It was rough, but it was definitely a testament,” Brittany said. “It made life so much better when we were able to come together, like whenever we were able to spend that time together.”

As Brittany entered college life, the coronavirus pandemic entered the lives of the world.

“I went from managing people and feeling important to not having a purpose,” Brittany said.

Brittany, being a social person, said she “struggled” with the transition back to civilian life, especially with virtual learning. She started going to her professors’ office hours in hopes of some social interaction.

“[My professors] would ask

me if I had any questions, and I would just say, ‘Nope, I just need a friend,’” Brittany said.

Now, Brittany works as the president of the Penn State University Veteran Organization, and Matt works as a student sponsor for the Office of Veterans Programs alongside his friend, John Buckley.

Buckley (senior-forest resources management) said he and Matt act as “a liaison between the office and administrative staff with the students.” They hold office hours for their smaller groups of Penn State student veterans and act as “a stabilizing force of help.” “We kind of rally together as the older student veterans,” Buckley said.

Before attending Penn State,

Buckley spent five years as a Navy hospital corpsman, providing medical care to infantry marine battalions while they’re in the field.

During his years of active duty, Buckley said he traveled throughout the United States. He was based in California and was deployed to Afghanistan twice.

“That was it — five years, in the blink of an eye,” Buckley said.

For Buckley, serving in the military wasn’t part of his plan.

After going to a community college for a short period of time, Buckley said “even at that level, it’s really expensive,” so he began “exploring other options” — that’s when he stumbled upon the Navy.

“I was just a young, restless

man wanting to get away from the place that I’d spent my entire life growing up,” Buckley said.

After his time in the military, Buckley worked as a farmer before entering Penn State.

Buckley said he wanted to “maximize the benefits” he gained from his service, so he applied to the university and heard back three weeks later.

“Putting together applications for college is no small feat, so for me to be able to reach out and be accepted three weeks later — that to me was the end all, be all,” Buckley said. “I just knew ‘OK this is where I’m going to end up.’”

Despite his “segmented college experience,” Buckley said Penn State “has definitely held up their end of the idea that what you put in, you receive,” saying the university has been a “great place to learn.”

Since transitioning back to civilian life, Buckley said Penn State has helped him adapt, especially through the forestry programs it offers. He said it teaches the classes at a higher level with more resources than other universities offered.

Buckley is now 33 years old as an undergraduate student, which is an “interesting experience” that he said he’s grateful for.

“I’m just so much more open and receptive to the education that’s put in front of me than I ever was in my early 20s,” Buckley said.

However, Buckley and Matt agreed that they sometimes feel like outsiders because of the age difference.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Student trio takes studies to ‘College Bowl’

By Jessie Nguyen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When a Penn State trio started their journey competing in NBC’s “Capital One College Bowl,” they “had absolutely no strategy going into it” except for trying their best, team captain

Emma Foley said.

Foley (sophomore-wildlife and fisheries science), Levi Showalter and Ryan Zhang represented Penn State in the trivia show and competed with rival colleges for scholarship money. This season, the winner received \$125,000 to put toward their college educa-

tion, and the runner-up received \$25,000.

The Nittany Lions secured a spot in the semifinals but failed to advance to the finals in their match with the Georgia Bulldogs. However, the team didn’t take this as a loss.

“It would have been nice to go farther, just for the purpose of my scholarship because I’m a sophomore... I need a bit extra to keep going, but I’m very happy with how we did in general,” Foley said.

“So what’s done is done.”

The trio each brought home \$20,000, which Foley said would be of tremendous help to her and her family.

“It’s just going to go right back into my education, so I have to worry about less fees and all of that,” she said. “I’m very lucky to have family support when paying for college, but I feel guilty because I want to repay that. I think this is one of the ways that I was able to.”

With answers ranging from “keratin” and “Centauri” to “bread” and “cedar,” the team’s performance in various subjects received multiple praises

from former NFL quarterback and host Peyton Manning in the show.

Explaining the key to his knowledge, Showalter (senior-plant sciences) said it took a lot of reading.

“I really like to read about all sorts of stuff,” he said. “The key is just to be curious about how the world works and be willing to learn about anything that interests you. It’s amazing how far that can take [you].”

Having grown up on a farm just an hour east of State College, Showalter said his upbringing might have played a part in the initial interview with the show producers.

“I’m just not the learning style that people typically follow, which is nothing against them, but it’s just an unconventional path,” he said. “So [the producers] were happy to have somebody with a bit different of a background on the show.”

While Showalter has been a member of the Penn State Quiz Bowl since he came to the university, Foley is not. Her mother Deborah said she was an “avid reader” at a very young age.

“I remember specifically all the Harry Potter books she read from March to August like five times when she was in first grade, and she definitely has a good memory,” Deborah said.

Deborah accompanied her daughter to Fayetteville, Georgia and cheered for the team throughout the rounds. Having been present at the tapings for every Penn State “College Bowl” match, Deborah said she also got interviewed by host Cooper Manning as part of her experience.

“Once you’re in the audience, you kind of have to stay for the game before and after, so I got to see a bunch of other teams, which was neat. I was amazed at how all the teams did — these kids are put on the spot,” she said. “I felt very honored and thankful to be in the audience to see it all.”

In the semifinals, Emma shared about her recent diagnosis of autism. Emma said she wanted to bring attention to the false stereotypes and social stigmas that others have of people on the spectrum.

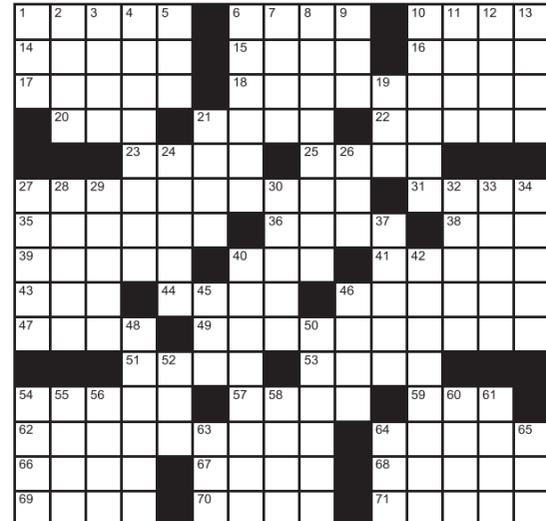
Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Courtesy of Steve Swisher

Students represented Penn State in NBC’s “Capital One College Bowl.”

Crossword



- Across**
- 1 Deadly snake
 - 6 Rubberneck
 - 10 Goblet feature
 - 14 Little green man
 - 15 Turkish of ciall
 - 16 Apple throwaway
 - 17 Rodeo rope
 - 18 Italian restaurant
 - 20 Explorer Johnson
 - 21 Student overseer
 - 22 Beginning
 - 23 Brain wave
 - 25 Muscle quality
 - 27 Shout of praise
 - 31 Wood cutters
 - 35 Pricing word
 - 36 Letters at Camp Lejeune
 - 38 Hood’s gun
 - 39 Equine of Africa
 - 40 Freddy Krueger’s street
 - 41 Half of Hispaniola
 - 43 “___ he drove out of sight...”
 - 44 Pathetic
 - 46 Grand ___ Dam
 - 47 Veggie’s constellation
 - 49 Backers
 - 51 Willy Wonka’s creator
 - 53 Black-and-white treat
 - 54 Torcher’s misdeed
 - 57 Expressed
 - 59 One Stooage
 - 62 Take a firm stand
 - 64 Dinette part
 - 66 Skirt style
 - 67 Pigeon’s home
 - 68 Fence feature
 - 69 Lofty works
 - 70 Camelot lady
 - 71 Corolla part
- Down**
- 1 “Wheels”
 - 2 Medley
 - 3 Partiality
 - 4 Merchante
 - 5 Gasteyer of “Mean Girls”
 - 6 Rich and elaborate cake
 - 7 Site of the Taj Mahal
 - 8 Flying Dutchman, e.g.
 - 9 Break bread
 - 10 Griddlecakes
 - 11 Rocky peaks
 - 12 Pennsylvania port
 - 13 Butcher’s stock
 - 19 Freight weight
 - 21 Mark for omission
 - 24 Windshield attachment
 - 26 Physics unit
 - 27 Eye color
 - 28 Mockery
 - 29 Roman god of wine
 - 30 Minty drink
 - 32 Spry
 - 33 No-cal drink
 - 34 Pippens
 - 37 Specific task
 - 40 Film coating
 - 42 Replace with a machine
 - 45 Baseball bat wood
 - 46 Part of a parachute
 - 48 Beloved of Aphrodite
 - 50 Ready
 - 52 Tiny toiler
 - 54 Shot, for short
 - 55 Police action
 - 56 Fries, maybe
 - 58 Nay sayer
 - 60 Final notice
 - 61 Poet ___ Wheeler Wilcox
 - 63 Pitching star
 - 64 Recipe amt.
 - 65 Aquatic shocker

Word Search Reading

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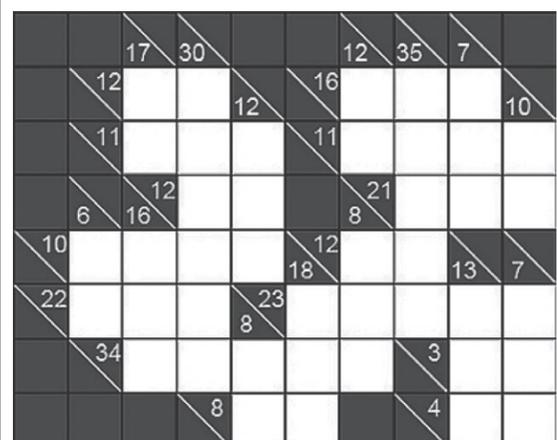
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Board of Editors gives thanks

Megan Swift, Editor-in-Chief

Life can be really challenging sometimes, and no one's immune to that. But it's those challenging moments that build character and resilience. I'll forever be grateful for all of the experiences I've had because they've contributed to the woman I am today. This might sound cliché, but this Thanksgiving, I'm most thankful to be alive. I get to wake up each morning and interact with the most incredible people — my family, friends, staff members here at The Daily Collegian and individuals I meet for the first time. What can be better than learning about other people's stories and what motivates them? The right answer, folks, is nothing. Every day, I feel inspired by these individuals. And speaking of inspiration, I'm so excited to go home to Pittsburgh and see my little brother, James, who is the strongest person I know, as well as my mom and dad — my biggest cheerleaders. I'm also thankful for my grandparents and extended family for continuously supporting me in my endeavors. The roller coaster of life moves a lot faster than we want it to, but riding through the ups and downs will never cease to amaze me. Here are some parting words: In case you haven't heard it lately, you are enough. I'm so proud of who you are and everything you do — even if we've never met. I hope you make happy memories this holiday season and become the person you've always wanted to be.

Courtney Benedetto, Managing Editor

Thanksgiving is and always has been an excuse for me to reconnect with family after a busy few months of school. Sure, there's the food and, well, more food, but the time spent with the ones I love always comes out on top. (I do love pumpkin pie, though.) I'm just thankful to spend time with my grandparents and everyone else in my family I don't see often. I'm extremely grateful this year for the friends I have here at school and the memories we've made. They've been my home away from home, and I can't thank them enough for being there for me.

Will Aguirre, Digital Managing Editor

I'm happy to take time off from classes to spend time with my family.

Olivia Estright, News Editor

Thanksgiving means sleep. Once I get that sleep, we can talk about how it actually means spending quality time with my family. After moving into college, I had the wild realization that I would never be living in the same home with my siblings ever again. Any chance I get to spend with family is one that I'm going to cherish. Despite my parents, brother and sister driving me nuts, the number of times we will all be together is numbered. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to go home, cuddle on the couch that still has my butt dent saved and hug everyone in

my family. Aside from the fam, you KNOW I'm thankful for Miss Queen Goddess Taylor Swift, my bestie Dany Devito, my friends and of course, ur mom <3.

Nick Stonesifer, News Editor

Thanksgiving is a time for all of us to take a second and ground ourselves in what we're grateful for. Many of us live our lives so quickly and rarely take a second to appreciate all of the blessings around us. I like to use Thanksgiving as a chance to remind myself that a lot of life is not that deep, and there is more good in life than there is bad. I am thankful for my family and loved ones, first and foremost. Without them, I am nothing, and no matter where I go, I can trust they will always stand by my side. For that, I am eternally grateful. I am also thankful for everyone else in my life — there are so many people in your life who you sometimes might forget are a blessing. They may not be the most important person in your life, but sometimes, people don't have to be. A small conversation you have with a stranger or a lifetime friend in a club are all experiences we should be grateful for. They may not be here forever, so it's best to enjoy their time while you can.

Andrew Buckman, Sports Editor

I am extremely thankful for my family, firstly. Being able to have them around is the best part of the holiday, even though I do really, really appreciate the food and football part, too. That also leads into my thankfulness for sports in general. You might think I'd be sick and tired of them because they consume my life, but in reality, they keep me grounded and continue to make me happy. I did celebrate the men's soccer team failing to make the tournament, but I swear that was because of my workload and not my dislike for the sport. I am also very thankful for my friends, especially the ones I have made this year. It's been a tough semester, so without them, I'm not sure how I would've done it. Lastly, I am thankful for Joel Haas.

Joel Haas, Sports Editor

To me, Thanksgiving means getting together with family to eat food and watch football. But it also means giving thanks — for everything. I'm thankful for having the ability to get out of bed in the morning — even though sometimes I'd rather go back to sleep. I'm thankful for even having a bed. I'm thankful for the sun and the clouds and the grass and all that stuff, too. I'm thankful for having the ability to be thankful. I'm thankful for the good stuff in my life that makes it worth living. I'm thankful for the bad stuff, too, for teaching me to appreciate the good stuff even more. I'm thankful for Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for sports, music and peanut butter. I'm thankful for all the people I've met along the way — friends, teachers, coaches, teammates

and the guy who always yells "WE ARE!" at me when I pass him while running through my neighborhood. I'm thankful for having people in my corner, the ones who've stuck with me through everything and believe in me more than I believe in myself. I'm thankful for the memories I've made along the way and the ones that I still have to make. I'm thankful for Penn State's most trusted news source — The Daily Collegian — and the opportunities it has given me. Perhaps most of all, I'm thankful that the Commanders beat the Eagles.

Max Ralph, Football Editor

Thanksgiving to me means family gatherings. I always think back to going to grandma and grandpa's house, playing pool with my cousins and watching "Elf" as a kid. This Thanksgiving, I'd say I'm most thankful for taking control of my life. A lot of things have been confusing and scary to me, especially when thinking about the future, but I'm doing a lot better these days in staying focused in the present, largely thanks to the people close to me.

Victoria Gough, Lifestyle Editor

I used to be resentful of Thanksgiving. As the only child of divorced parents who don't keep in touch with their own families, I couldn't help but compare myself to my peers who had what I considered to be "real families." As a kid, I dreamed of having a huge family Thanksgiving dinner like all my friends and classmates, with a gorgeous, photogenic turkey as the centerpiece at a massive table. In reality, I celebrated two small Thanksgivings in my pajamas — one with my mom, and the other with my dad and stepmom. As I got older, I grew to be more appreciative and thankful for what I had. My Thanksgivings have no family drama or formalities, just quality time and excellent home-cooked food shared with my loved ones. This year, amid all the stressors of my senior year, I'm thankful for being able to spend time with family — no matter what my family looks like.

Sarah Pellis, Lifestyle Editor

Thanksgiving has always been a crazy holiday for me, and it means different things for me every year I celebrate it. I have spent plenty of Thanksgivings at home watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade waiting for family to come over to my childhood home for dinner as the smell of food would fill my house. I have done the complete opposite — spent Thanksgivings in hotels and restaurants for various reasons. While I preferred to be at home with family, I enjoyed being away from home when I was younger because I gained so many memories that not many other people have during this holiday. This year, we are eating in a restaurant the day before Thanksgiving with my whole family because that's what best works for my family right now, and I'm trying to learn to

accept that. We'll still have dinner on Thanksgiving Day, but sometimes I miss what we used to do. As my grandparents get older and toward the end of their lives, I am just grateful I get to see them around the holidays. I am also grateful for my friends — from home and in college — because I love them all so much, and I enjoy having Thanksgiving with them. I am also thankful for my siblings, my parents, my dog, my roommates, my pals at the Collegian, my health and — the epitome of the holiday season — Black Friday shopping.

Kit Schroder, Opinion Editor

I'm a very nostalgic person, so for me, Thanksgiving has always been an end-of-the-year holiday meant for reflecting on all the year has given. In 2022, I've been blessed with so much. I spent the first half of the year discovering so many new places, cultures, food and languages around Europe with endless support from back home. I spent the next few months in my favorite place with my favorite people — the shore with my brothers, parents, friends and grandparents. I ran at sunrise, I swam at sunset, I really lived this year. I'm so lucky. I could write a book on why, so I won't exhaust this small portion of a newspaper, and instead, I'll probably go on and on about it to all the people in my life I honestly don't deserve, who continually support me in all my crazy endeavors. And for that, I'm so thankful.

Phoebe Cykosky, Features and Investigations Editor

Simply put, Thanksgiving is giving thanks. But, it's a lot more than that. Thanksgiving is an opportunity to reflect on who or what is most important to you, and this year, I've learned a lot about that. Thanksgiving is the start of the holiday season, my favorite time of the year. I'm thankful for my family and friends, the ones who are always willing to listen to my never-ending rants, which you can hear about on the "It's Not That Deep" podcast with my *least* favorite person, Olivia Estright. I'm thankful for the ability to utilize stairs, the block button and finding peace. Thanksgiving is also a time to acknowledge the root of the holiday and what it means for other communities. Life affects us all in different ways, and Thanksgiving is a time to be cognizant of that. And finally, even though the McRib is back for its last hurrah at participating McDonald's locations, it will forever remind me to be thankful to be alive in this ever-changing world.

Caleb Craig, Photo Editor

Thanksgiving means I get to enjoy my Cthulhu Turkey (look it up) and crystal gravy, alongside my Jell-O mold salad and bowl of candy corn with milk. I'm thankful for melatonin. Speaking of which, good night.

Jackson Ranger, Photo Editor

For me, Thanksgiving is a spe-

cial time of the year because it's one of the few times when I get to see my family. I've always savored the journey home for break, as it always gives me a nice respite from all the stress and chaotic energy at State College. It's because of this break from State College that I feel like I can assess my life choices and figure out where my life is going. Thanksgiving also symbolizes the start of the holiday season, as I feel like I can more easily get into the Christmas spirit after spending time with my family for Thanksgiving celebrations. This Thanksgiving, I'm most thankful for being able to attend Penn State and work as a photographer at The Daily Collegian. I have been given so many experiences that have allowed me to improve myself during my time at Penn State and at the Collegian that I couldn't imagine a future without them in my life.

Sophia Montanye, Multimedia Editor

To me, Thanksgiving is a time I get to dedicate spending with those close to me. I love that I'm able to sit and listen to everyone around the table and get to share what we have been grateful for that year. It's a great time of reflection for the year, as well as a fun time with those close to me, with the bonus of a great home-cooked meal. This Thanksgiving, I'm beyond thankful for my family, who is always supportive of me through everything I do without a doubt, as well as my close friends who encourage and motivate me to keep doing what I love every single day.

Carson Schultz, Multimedia Editor

My family never really traveled for Thanksgiving. It has always just been me, my parents and my siblings, so it is a special day to be with my family. My parents and my brother would cook all day while my sister and I crafted nameplates and silly decorations for the Thanksgiving table. Thanksgiving is a time for me to take a step back and appreciate all the good in life: good food, good company, good health. My mom has a Thanksgiving book where my siblings and I would write what we were thankful for each year. One of my favorite things to do on Thanksgiving is to look back at all the past years and reflect on my life far. As I write this from my bed, I am certainly thankful for DayQuil keeping my spirits high since I've come down with a bad cold. But on a more serious note, I am thankful for the opportunity to study at Penn State and all the people I've met along the way. Starting college during the pandemic was rough, and I certainly couldn't have imagined all the great friends I have made and experiences I have had in my first three years here. I feel like it's easy for me to get caught up in the day-to-day and lose sight of the things I have to be grateful for.

MY VIEW | Fernanda López

Befriending food one day at a time



López

I've never had major issues with my food.

For as long as I can remember, I was always lucky enough to have a "healthy" relationship with what was on the table. I ate what I craved and didn't resent myself for it.

I maintained that relationship for almost 20 years.

For humans, love for food is as innate as love for puppies. Like many others, I relied on food and the instant gratification it gave me.

But nowadays, I've been feeling stuck on an obsessive need.

It's an obsession that involves strictly eating a salad every day to

be healthy — or at least tricking my mind into believing so.

I believe that excitement is the ingredient that drives humans to remain creative and radiant. Yet, I truly don't find excitement in eating a salad.

I don't look forward to my meal when it's made out of lettuce and tomato — as much as I wish I did.

Whenever I'm on the hunt for lunch in Redifer Commons, my eyes are immediately locked on the pizza and pasta, and I salivate thinking about that below-average Italian food.

Yet as I'm ready to get in line, I feel as if a gray cloud of shame gets in the way and forces me to look the other

way.

Suddenly, I feel the need to lock eyes with lettuce and tomato and push my craving for pizza to fade away.

I won't let myself enjoy the food I truly love unless I "earn it."

How did my joy for food become a knot I can't untie?

I've always been the first person to treat myself whenever I earn something.

If I fail or do well on a test, I'd make sure to give myself some love — something that feels like a warm hug.

From watching a long movie to spending more money than expected

on a meal, I do believe in earning certain things to motivate yourself to work harder.

But a feeling of guilt should not be associated with an extra slice of pizza.

For the longest time, I've proudly carried that mindset with me. I had always heard balance is the key to everything — moderation and self-control.

Yet, now I feel disappointed whenever I opt for grease instead of greens. Whenever it comes to food, it feels more black and white. Shame and guilt seem to have become anchored to a smile when I take a bite off of my first fry.

Food shouldn't be seen as the enemy, and thinking about my next meal shouldn't feel like a nightmare.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

"But a feeling of guilt should not be associated with an extra slice of pizza."

Fernanda López



Cartoons by Fernanda López

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QUICK-STICK CORREIA

By **Zavier Gussett**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

New contributions have been a frequent storyline of Penn State's season — and graduate student forward Courtney Correia has produced in several ways so far through her first year with the team.

Since coming to Happy Valley after four years with Boston, Correia has been one of the Nittany Lions' most consistent forwards while showing high-scoring ability in some of the team's key wins.

The native of Whitby, Ontario, tallied two hat tricks through 16 games in the blue and white — with the first of her career proving to be crucial in a 4-2 win against Saint Lawrence earlier this campaign.

Since that performance, Correia has displayed her all-around talent on the ice while emerging as one of the team's lead veterans.

"She's our most vocal player, in practice and games, and that's something our team needs to work on," coach Jeff Kampersal told *The Daily Collegian*. "Courtney brings that element to it."

"She's a driven student. She knew what she wanted to do in terms of grad school, and it's the way that she plays hockey."

Her coach added that Correia's physicality and aggression at the net have stood out thus far, saying she's done a good job of taking high-quality shots even when knowing she's going to get hit or cross-checked.

Before joining the blue and white this past June, Correia played four years with the Terriers as one of the team's leading scorers. She was named her team's MVP for the 2021-22 season after putting up career highs in goals and points, finishing with 14 goals and 25 points total —



Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Penn State women's hockey player Courtney Correia transferred from Boston and is now one of the Nittany Lions' most consistent forwards.

both team-high numbers.

Correia said the transition between schools is an experience she's been grateful for, specifically mentioning the differences between Boston and Penn State's campuses. She said getting to play a fifth season of collegiate hockey has been "icing on top of an amazing cake."

After compiling 65 points during her time at Boston, Correia currently has seven goals this campaign, which is tied for second in the CHA. She's also contributed six assists and seven blocks in what could be another career-best season by the time it's finished.

Her immediate impact stems from her confidence and previous experience as a player, both of which have allowed Correia to develop several roles while focusing on details of her game.

"While I was at BU, I played wing for two years and then center for another two. Prior to that, I played center most of my career," Correia told the *Collegian*, "but

I kind of came in here willing to be in whatever position the team needed me to be in."

Correia has seen time at both wing and center this year, too, and it's led to the graduate student stepping up in the faceoff circle after showing her playmaking ability early on.

Her 59-37 faceoff record this campaign showed she can dominate in the circle. In the series against Mercyhurst, she put up a 30-13 mark, proving that she can lead at center.

Kampersal said Correia's performance as a lead center wasn't entirely expected due to many factors, including the amount of talented stickhandlers on this team who've always played the position.

Kampersal mentioned forwards junior Kiara Zanon, sophomore Mya Vaslet and freshman Tessa Janecke as athletes who play center at a high level, but the graduate student's success in the dot has been too good to ignore.

"We've been tinkering around

with lineups to get the right chemistry," Kampersal said. "It's probably best that she helps us in the middle. I think she'll stay there for the time being."

Kampersal also said Correia's good at the wing position because "she's tough on the boards," making the decision to play her up the middle a difficult one.

Correia said it's been fun to get in the faceoff circle and see success, and the rest of the team has done a great job of finishing those opportunities by playing aggressively on the puck.

Despite being in her first year with the team, the fifth-year athlete has also brought an impact in many ways off of the ice. Vaslet spoke on Correia's influence since coming in and how her perspective from Boston has benefitted the group.

"She's a great person and a really great player... so just her coming in and helping us at center has just helped us so much," Vaslet told the *Collegian*. "Our faceoff percentage has gone up,

and we talk about like, in between periods or even during practice, how we both can get better at faceoffs or what we could do, just in a center's perspective."

The sophomore center added that Correia's IQ on the ice has provided a different way of thinking when they talk about things they see and said it's benefitted the team collectively.

Since tallying a three-goal performance against Lindenwood in her first game at center this year, Correia has stayed focused on improving her game and winning.

The fifth-year forward said "staying consistent" is crucial within a long season, and maintaining strong communication and continuing to prioritize good-quality shots is key.

"There's so many different personalities on the team, but no matter what, we're always there for one another," Vaslet said. "It's always team first with us."

Of the team's top seven point leaders this season, four are new contributors who weren't a part of last year's unit. This team's culture has been talked about a lot, and the unselfish play from newcomers has further led to the team finding chemistry together early in the season.

"We all kind of have this winning mindset and have kind of all bought in," Correia said.

Correia said that mentality has come from the top down since arriving, and instilling "championship habits" has been important to her, along with everyone she's joined in the blue and white.

"Everyone wants to win, wants to be successful. Nobody's been complacent," Correia said. "I'm someone that wants to win in every aspect of my life, and to be a part of a program that wants to be successful and is going to drive that into us every single day."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

'A hell of a ride' for Brown

By **Spencer Ripchik**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A cornerback from Trenton, New Jersey — Ji'Ayir Brown — made his commitment to Penn State 1,244 days ago, but he had no idea what the journey he was embarking on was going to look like.

"Four years ago, I didn't even know where I was going to school," Brown said. "I didn't know. I knew I was a good player. I knew I could play on any stage, but I didn't know how I was gonna get there or where it was going to be at."

Brown also didn't know what position he was going to play, and it wasn't until he found his calling at safety at Penn State. He played a variety of positions, and they have all helped shape him into the player he is now.

"I'm a defensive player now," Brown said. "I thought I was always going to be an offensive player — quarterback, wide receiver — but I'm a defensive player now, and I'm all around the ball... It's just coming full circle for me as far as from the football world. All the positions and stuff that I'm playing now."

Brown has been an important piece of Penn State's defense the past three years and tied for the national lead in interceptions in 2021. This year is no different, and his role is more important with the departure of safety Jaquan Brisker.

Now, the boy from Trenton four years ago has just two regular-season games left as a Nittany Lion.

Brown is trying to slow down the two regular-season weeks he has left in State College despite knowing that nothing lasts forever.

"It's been a hell of a ride here at Penn State," Brown said. "You never want to see it come to an end, but nothing lasts forever. Just trying to slow time down as much as possible. I knew this moment was going to come. I just wanted to be ready for it as much as possible."

Heading into his final season, Brown set expectations for himself, and he said Monday via Zoom that the team set an expectation of going to the College Football Playoff. With two losses, the team's dream of going to the CFP is minuscule.

"As a team, we definitely reach beyond the expectations of everybody else around us, but I don't think we're done with our season yet. We'll all finish off strong," Brown said. "It's been a hell of a year. I've definitely appreciated everything that's been going on this year."

Penn State's goal of making it to the College Football Playoff fell short, and according to Brown, the goals he set for himself similarly haven't been met.

"I set the bar high for myself," Brown said. "I don't get discouraged when I don't meet expectations. I just find a new way to reach my goals, a new path, just a new way I can go about things or maybe recreate the list throughout the season and have different expectations that I can reach."

Brown sets the bar high for himself because he believes, as a

player, he can do anything on the field.

He didn't achieve his goals on the field this season, but James Franklin and the rest of the staff have appreciated the person he's been off of the field.

Franklin said Brown and defensive tackle PJ Mustipher, who's also leaving after this season, have been some of the best leaders he's had in this program.

"He's got a really good way of being a great teammate to the guys in the locker room, but he also really understands how to interact with coaches and have a positive healthy relationship with the coaches," Franklin said Tuesday. "He's been phenomenal... in the meeting rooms, he's been awesome in the locker room. He's been awesome after big wins, he's been tremendous after challenging situations."

Over the years, Brown has been in the locker room with some leaders who have moved on to become NFL talent like Defensive Rookie of the Year Micah Parsons.

Brown learned that the most important aspect of being a leader is the connection with his teammates in the locker room, and from that, he was voted a captain for the 2022 season.

"I've grown as a leader from 2021 to 2022 tremendously," Brown said. "I feel like the guys really want to get behind me, really want to help me finish my last season at Penn State the best way I can."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian file photo

Penn State wrestler Shayne Van Ness overcame "mental battles" after redshirting his freshman year. Now, he mans the 149-pound slot.

Van Ness stays fresh

By **Zach Allen**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Shayne Van Ness' season debut has been in the works for quite some time, and it came to fruition in Penn State's season opener versus Lock Haven.

Van Ness mans the 149-pound slot for the Nittany Lions after redshirting his freshman year due to injury. After rehabbing his injury to be ready for the 2022-23 campaign, Van Ness pinned Lock Haven's Connor Eck to collect his first career dual meet win.

"With me being out for a year with injury, this has been a long time coming," Van Ness said. "I only get to do this once, have my first match, so I wanted to make sure it was memorable and I think I did a pretty good job with that."

Prior to Van Ness' fall, there were a lot of questions surrounding the former highly-touted recruit. Van Ness only wrestled in two matches in an open tournament last season, meaning neither of his bouts counted toward the team's dual meets.

The Somerville, New Jersey, native suffered a leg injury that caused him to miss some time in his senior year of high school and most of his first year of college, causing him to redshirt. This season is the first season Van Ness said he "felt like he was back to 100%."

However, it was the mental struggles of grinding back from Van Ness' injury that proved to be the toughest.

"It was more of a mental battle," Van Ness said. "I did a lot of physical therapy and made sure everything was as strong as it

could be. Then it was more about overcoming the mental battles."

Van Ness said he used his time rehabbing to search for "who he was outside of wrestling" and took up activities such as reading, drawing and developing his faith.

According to Van Ness, finding out who he was as a person makes him "more confident in his wrestling."

"I'm going to move forward, I'm going to come out for guys, I'm going to apply pressure... but I'm going to stay on them," Van Ness said on Penn State's media day before the season opener. "I'm going to make them never want to wrestle me again."

The class of 2021's No. 2 overall recruit strutted his confidence with his fall against Lock Haven, as he nearly got the pin a period early, but couldn't quite secure it.

Van Ness has taken the place of Beau Bartlett, who wrestled up a weight class at 149 pounds last season and moved down to 141 pounds in order to fill the Nick Lee-sized hole in the depth chart. Bartlett's move opened up a spot for Van Ness, who was already ranked No. 25 in the country before he wrestled.

Van Ness' pin was the first of three for Penn State, and it extended the Nittany Lions' lead to double digits and an insurmountable lead. However, Van Ness hopes his debut pin will be a benchmark for future bouts to come.

"It sets the bar, my first match I got a pin," Van Ness said. "I'm always working to improve my performance."

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Chloe Trieff/Collegian file photo

Penn State football safety Ji'Ayir Brown has just two games left of his career as a Nittany Lion. "I knew this moment was going to come. I just wanted to be ready for it as much as possible," Brown said.

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