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# The Daily Collegian

For the students. For the glory. Since 1887.

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Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

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Photo by Sienna Pinney

## CAEL TALKS COMPETITION

By AJ Piazza  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

**WRESTLING**  
Penn State wrestling's season will be getting underway this Friday. The squad has won the national championship the last four seasons, and it will look to win its fifth straight for the first time in the Cael Sanderson regime.

"We're excited to get going," Sanderson said. "Have all the confidence in the world in our staff and the student athletes in our program."

Ahead of the season-opener against Oklahoma, here's what Sanderson had to say for the first press conference of the season.

### Lineup competition

There was a lot of speculation and predictions about what this season's lineup could look like. The squad has a lot of highly touted recruits that came in and a lot of returners that ended the season as All-Americans. The main competition is at 141, 157 and 285 pounds.

"The best thing you can do for your teammate is kick their butt

in practice, and force them to get better and vice versa," Sanderson said.

At 141, Aaron Nagao has returned from his injury, while Braeden Davis has jumped up another weight class after finishing fifth place at the NCAA Championships. Sanderson said "there's a good chance Davis redshirts." This would give Nagao the nod to start.

For 157 pounds, Tyler Kasak returns after coming in third at the NCAA Championships last year, but Sanderson alluded to him redshirting. The favorite to start will be PJ Duke, who showed out by pinning former NCAA national champion Yianni Diakomihalis at the Final X to make the US National Team.

"Tyler Kasak is a good example of that. I mean he's one of the best wrestlers in the country. Absolutely love watching him wrestle," Sanderson said. "There's a good chance he's gonna redshirt this year."

At heavyweight, there will be a competition between Cole Mirasola and Lucas Cochran. Mirasola is in his redshirt season after going 6-2 overall and 0-2 record in duals last year. Cochran has

jumped up to heavyweight full time this season after wrestling at 197 mostly, but has previous experience at 285.

### Assistant coaches

Penn State's assistant coaches seemed to be a popular topic this offseason. Per Sanderson, the Nittany Lions have the best coaching staff in the country and there's a reason for that.

"Coach Casey, coach Cody, and Nick Lee, they're here for those kids," Sanderson said. "The kids know that our staff is here for them. It's not about us."

The Nittany Lions coaching staff has a lot of connections to each other. Cody Sanderson, Cael's brother, is going into his 17th season with the program.

"Cody and Casey just do an unbelievable job," Sanderson said. "They're the perfect example of a team player because they could both be head coaches whenever they want, right, and they're here because they believe in what we're doing and believe in being a part of something bigger than the individual."

Casey Cunningham is also going into his 17th season with the program. He now has two

sons on the team — Hayden Cunningham at 141 pounds and Asher Cunningham, who's listed at both 174 and 184 pounds.

Lee wrestled at Penn State. He was a two-time national champion and the first five-time All-American of all-time for the program.

### Masanosuke Ono

The Nittany Lions were able to get Masanosuke Ono to enter the program at the collegiate level after originally joining the NLWC. This created a lot of talk as to who would get the nod at 133 pounds for this season.

"Mas has been an incredible addition. If you've seen him on social media, that's him everyday," Sanderson said. "He's a great kid and obviously an unbelievable wrestler."

The unknown with Ono was how much eligibility he will receive.

"It looks like he's going to redshirt," Sanderson said. "They get a redshirt year and one year of eligibility right now, but with the way things are changing in the NCAA, who knows what might be the case."

With Ono most likely

redshirting, insert the No.1 recruit in the 2025 class according to FloWrestling, Marcus Blaze, into the lineup. Blaze went 196-2 in high school and is a four-time state champion in Ohio.

### Oklahoma dual

The squad opens its season with a dual in a Bryce Jordan Center against No. 18 Oklahoma. The team will be down Josh Barr at 197 pounds as he's dealing with a "short-term" injury, so Connor Mirasola will enter his first action as a Nittany Lion in a dual after going 8-0 in tournaments last season.

Former Penn State wrestler Mark Hall II is on the staff for the Sooners. He wrestled for the squad from 2016-2020 and won a national championship at 174 pounds in 2017.

Penn State will have a home-and-home with Oklahoma, Sanderson said. The details of the home-and-home were not revealed by Sanderson.

Friday will be the first meeting between these two teams ever.

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## Aaron Nagao excited to return after long-term injury

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

**WRESTLING**  
It's been a long time since Aaron Nagao has last donned the blue and white singlet on the mat for Penn State. It seemed like ages ago for when he suited up during the 2023 NCAA Championships, where he placed fifth at 133 pounds.

An injury last year cost him the season, but with a jump to 141 pounds and Cael Sanderson basically implying that Braeden Davis will be redshirting, Nagao will make his return to the mat on Friday against Oklahoma.

"I am excited. I haven't wrestled — it's been almost two years since I've competed," Nagao said. "Just hopefully shake the dust off, if there is any, glorify God and let the herd show."

Nagao announced his transfer from Minnesota on April 25, 2023, coming off of an All-American season for the Golden Gophers where he also finished as the Big Ten runner-up in addition to the aforementioned strong



Mack Leach/ For the Collegian

Aaron Nagao, junior wrestler at Penn State, gives insight on his upcoming season during a media event in Rec Hall.

showing at nationals.

During the 2023-24 season, he dealt with injuries during his first year as a Nittany Lion, finishing the season with a 17-7 record and finishing ninth in the NCAA Championships. But in

December of last year, Sanderson revealed that Nagao would miss the season due to an undisclosed injury.

"He got injured last spring and had surgery right away," Sanderson said in December. "It's an

injury that you take as much time and even more than you need to ensure his long-term health. He's not trying to get back anytime soon."

Shayne Van Ness, who is expected to return to a starting role at 149 pounds, was previously in a similar position as Nagao. He dealt with injury in 2023 during his sophomore campaign, forcing him to miss the rest of the season upon sustaining the injury.

So when Nagao was thrust into a similar situation, he had Van Ness to lean on.

"I actually talked to Shayne the day after my surgery," Nagao said. "He sent me a text, and I told him, 'yeah, there's a lot going on.' I remember he said he was 'just there.' Then seeing him do well, obviously, I look up to him. He's a great partner. It's inspiring."

It was a long grind for Nagao, but he had things to lean on. He cited his wife, family and relationship with God that helped him work a long road back to recovery.

Nagao thinks it was nine months after surgery before he

started doing drills, having done his surgery in the middle of July. Now that he's back to competing, he's focused on one area of growth that has helped him as a wrestler.

"A big part of competing is your mind, spiritually," Nagao said. "I think everything else is going to be taken care of. If you're competing well and you feel good mentally — you know, everyone's good here, so I think if you could have a healthy mind and be grateful and wrestle free, you're gonna be fine."

It's been many months and days of working his way back. That journey will meet its end when Nagao takes that mat on Friday, and he's ready to show up and show out.

"I'm betting on myself and I'm trusting in God," Nagao said. "I know this is the place for me to be, and it gives me the best shot to accomplish all my goals."

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# Letter from the Editor: Our Rivalry. Your Impact.

By Mercedes Hamilton  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



Samantha Oropeza/Collegian

**Lyle Alenstein, Lexie Linderman, Avery Hill and Will Horstman** stand in the Rose Bowl Stadium after covering the Penn State vs. UCLA game.

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Mercedes Hamilton is the editor-in-chief of The Daily Collegian. She's a fourth-year studying English and journalism. Email her at [editorinchief@psucollegian.com](mailto:editorinchief@psucollegian.com).

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## Terry Smith says it's 'very important' to keep Land Grant Trophy

By Will Horstman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

State all-time series dates back to 1914, the Land Grant Trophy was created in 1993, when the Nittany Lions joined the Big Ten and the two teams met more regularly.

Since then, Penn State holds a 18-10 advantage in the series in games where the prize was at stake. The trophy has switched hands 11 times, and the Nittany Lions have won four of the last five matchups.

The Land Grant Trophy has generated recognition online for its look. It has a rectangular box-like shape with shelves on it, including plaques and other symbols from each school.

Smith said he includes the trophy on his slideshow he shows to the team throughout this week. The matchup also comes at a time where Penn State is reeling as it's on a six-game losing streak, its longest skid since 2004.

As such, not all opinions from the team are focused on the Land Grant Trophy, like cornerback Zion Tracy saying it's not really something he thinks about.

"It's another week just to go 1-0," Tracy said.

The Nittany Lions dropped a double-overtime loss to Oregon on Sept. 27, kicking off their current skid. They haven't won a game since defeating Villanova on Sept. 13.

Throughout the losing streak, Penn State has found ways to lose

in heartbreaking fashion. Most notably, it just allowed Indiana to march down the field for a game-winning touchdown last weekend.

Furthermore, the Nittany Lions lost their matchups with Northwestern and Iowa by one point. They were even upset by previously winless UCLA on Oct. 4, which sent shockwaves through the college football world at the time, and they suffered a blowout loss to Ohio State two weeks ago.

In other words, it's been a while since Penn State has tasted victory.

"That's a hungry damn football team in that locker room, regardless of what it is," tight end Andrew Rappleyea said. "We just want to get a win, and we want to whoop their a—, plain and simple."

If the Nittany Lions lose again this weekend, it'd be their seventh-straight loss, which would be their longest losing streak since 1931.

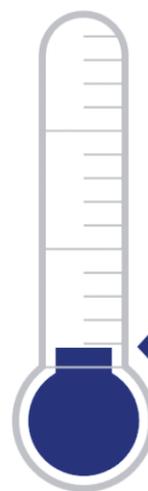
But a win for Penn State this weekend would satisfy some of the hunger the team has, and it will also keep the Land Grant Trophy and its shelves in State College.

"It's very important that we maintain control of the Land Grant Trophy," Smith said.

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## The Land Grant Fundraiser Face Off

**\$10,000**



Raised **\$748**

As of 10 p.m. Wednesday.  
Follow us on Instagram for updates on this challenge.

## Football predictions

- Avery Hill: Penn State 38, Michigan State 17
- Will Horstman: Penn State 30, Michigan State 17
- Lexie Linderman: Penn State 21, Michigan State 13
- Lyle Alenstein: Penn State 33, Michigan State, 14

# Quarterback uncertainty surrounds Michigan State

By Avery Hill  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

signal caller then struggled before being pulled from the starting reins in the fifth of Michigan State's now-six game losing streak.

He's a polar opposite from the redshirt freshman Milivojevic, as Chiles has broken as much as a 64-yard gain on the ground and racked up 1,392 passing yards in eight games of action. Terry Smith's squad must come prepared.

"We have the athletic quarterback package, and then we have the pocket quarterback package," Terry said. "And then just depending on who's in the game, we got a set of calls for these guys, so we'll be prepared for both."

### Jordan Hall, linebacker

When the whistle blows, expect Jordan Hall to be somewhere near the ball.

Hall, the Spartans' MIKE backer, leads the team in tackles with 70 and is tied for first in interceptions, forced fumbles and sacks at one, three and two, respectively.

Not many national spectators are tuning into Michigan State weekly to see, but Penn State's already aware of his capabilities.

In his freshman year, the former four-star out of IMG Academy tallied 12 tackles and a sack in the last Battle for the Land Grant contest.

His versatility could damage the Nittany Lions' quest to sharpening their pencil. Saturday night could end up being a launching pad to his draft stock if all goes well for his Spartans.

### Nick Marsh, wide receiver

It's more than likely Nick Marsh was in a good mood when he watched Penn State's cornerbacks in the last couple of games.

Marsh leads the Spartans' air game with 46 catches for 554 yards and five touchdowns.

At 6-foot-3, 203 pounds, Marsh earned the nickname Megatron and has high expectations set for his career in green and white. He's probably circled on many gameplans throughout the season, but cornerback Zion Tracy didn't make it clear that's the case for Penn State.

"When we watch film now, we just be more focused on what we could do to come out with the win for real," Tracy said when asked about Michigan State's receivers. "Not really focused on them that much."

One thing the Nittany Lions can do is to do what it can to shut down Marsh.

With performances like his eight-catch 194-yard performance against Maryland last year and two-touchdown showing against Boston College this season, he could try and put on a show to collect his team's first conference victory.

### Elijah Tau-Tolliver, running back

Elijah Tau-Tolliver was a standout at Sacramento State before making the jump to the FBS this season.

Tau-Tolliver didn't see the field much initially, but broke out with



Alex Kormann | AP Photo

**Michigan State quarterback Alessio Milivojevic (11)** is sacked by Minnesota defensive lineman Karter Menz (11) on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025,

an 85-yard touchdown run in his 127-yard day against the Golden Gophers.

Tallying a total of 92 yards prior to the contest, whether he'll continue to see an increase in reps remains to be seen, but for the Spartans, his efforts are encouraging.

### Matt Gulbin, center

After a week in which the Penn State defensive line got the best out of Indiana's front, it'll face Pro Football Focus' No. 6-rated center

in Matt Gulbin. The graduate transfer was highly touted at Wake Forest, though 247Sports ranked him the No. 56 interior offensive lineman transfer.

He helped wall off the defender in Tau-Tolliver's big run, and could make a big impact if the Spartans can spring one on Saturday.

To email reporter: [amh8304@psu.edu](mailto:amh8304@psu.edu)  
Follow him on X [@official\\_aveve](https://twitter.com/official_aveve)

The battle of the bottom of the Big Ten coming Saturday night.

Penn State will square off with Michigan State for the Land Grant Trophy.

The Spartans, led by coach Jonathan Smith, have some uncertainty at its top position headed into Saturday, but regardless, there's a few key players to look out for.

### Aidan Chiles or Alessio Milivojevic, quarterback

Looking weeks ahead to the game, fans were likely preparing to see Aidan Chiles lead Michigan State, but he was benched for his team's most recent game, against Minnesota. Alessio Milivojevic took his place, recording 311 passing yards on a 71.4% completion percentage in the 23-20 overtime loss.

Milivojevic's performance may make it seem like any quarterback battle has been put to bed, but Jonathan doesn't think so, giving both quarterbacks first-team reps throughout the week.

"Similarly, we're gonna let that continue to go through the week," Jonathan said on Monday. "Again, both of those guys' skillsets present some positive things. So, we're going to let that play out again this week."

Chiles' key performance was a five total touchdown showing in the 42-40 double-overtime win over Boston College. The junior

# Annual 100 Days Til' THON event



Samantha Oropeza/Collegian

The total is revealed at 100 days 'til THON in the HUB-Robeson Center on Nov. 12, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

By Brennan Kramp  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State THON held its annual 100 Days 'Til THON event at the HUB-Robeson Center Wednesday.

THON is the world's largest student-run philanthropy that aims to provide emotional and financial support to Four Diamonds families who have been impacted by childhood cancer. In 2025, THON raised a record-breaking \$17.7 million For The Kids®.

The event represents exactly what it advertises; 100 days until THON's 46-hour dance marathon. The event is designed to galvanize the Penn State community and remind students and residents that THON is coming closer and closer as well as continue to raise donations to fight childhood cancer.

"It's a celebration of the end of the Dream Forward campaign in which we raise the most (money possible) in a two week long period compared to the year long fundraiser," Melissa Boag, one of the THON public relations directors, said.

Boag, a fourth-year studying telecommunications, said THON means coming together as a community and supporting a cause.

"The whole point is fundraising for a cure," she said.

At the HUB-Robeson Center, students poured through every hall, buzzing with enthusiasm for the event's activities as they lined

up at various booths and tables to cast their names in raffles, picked up free cookies, bought pins and offered donations to support the sole cause of this event.

Riley Lingel was a volunteer during the event and said she feels empowered by THON.

"It means being a part of something bigger than myself," Lingel, a fourth-year studying marketing, said.

During the event, students got to enjoy the festivities like student-taught line dancing, supporting THON themed merchandise stands, dance numbers put on by other student-led organizations. As well, other fundraising organizations like Wigs for Kids, an organization where students can donate their own hair to be turned into wigs for children going through chemotherapy, attended the event.

"It means opportunity for everybody, equality for everybody, and just a good time," Alex Rossman said.

Rossman, a third-year student studying communications and film production, is on the media production team for the event and is a part of THON's public relations team. Rossman said the best part of the event is simply getting the chance to see it all happen.

One attendee, Giavanna Famularo, said coming together for such a great cause is so good for kids.

"It helps with unity and bringing people together ... sometimes we can get lost

in what's really important," Famularo, a fourth-year studying marketing, said.

At 3 p.m. the head members of THON took to the bleachers of the HUB to announce the total amount of money raised at the end of the Dream Forward campaign.

As hundreds of students packed their way towards the bleachers with anticipation, phones raised and recording to capture the results, THON's supply logistics director Benjamin Roitman took the microphone and announced that so far, THON has raised \$2,077,353.59.

The fundraising goal for the end of the 2025 Dream Forward campaign was \$1,250,000 and today they revealed that the organization exceeded that goal by over \$825,000.

"It takes every single one of us," Roitman, a fourth-year student studying education and public policy, said.

Roitman gave all the credit to the students and local philanthropists and said that it's a testament to the strength of the community.

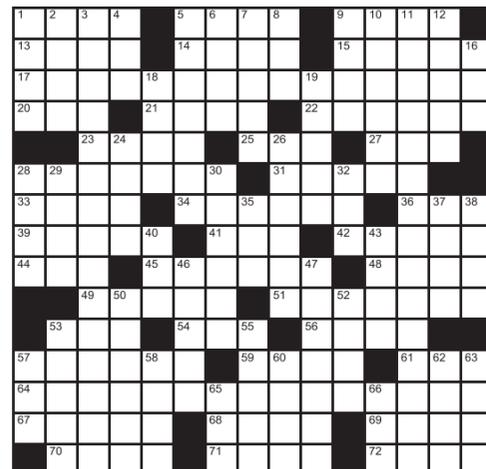
"THON is an organization of 16,500 student volunteers and it takes every single one of us to create the impact that we do in the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. I'm just so proud of every single volunteer," said Roitman.

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# Crossword

Across

- 1 Cry from a crib
- 5 Horse's motion
- 9 Ionian gulf
- 13 Like the Kalahari or the Sahara
- 14 Off-white
- 15 Intended
- 17 1981 Chevy Chase, Carrie Fisher comedy
- 20 Had an edge
- 21 Three-ply snack
- 22 Saffron-flavored Spanish dish
- 23 Citrus fruit
- 25 Common conjunction
- 27 Force unit
- 28 Church topper
- 31 Where to get a fast buck?
- 33 Cupid's Greek counterpart
- 34 Peaceful
- 36 J.F.K. overseer
- 39 Raises up
- 41 Kind of nut
- 42 Rhodes of Rhodesia
- 44 Auction unit
- 45 Aftershock
- 48 Fashion
- 49 Personnel director
- 51 Party favorite
- 53 "\_\_\_ Freischütz" (Weber opera)
- 54 DUI test, informally
- 56 Bank deposit?
- 57 Bacterium that requires air or free oxygen for life
- 59 Field worker
- 61 Pencil holder
- 64 Italian Renaissance man



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- 67 Scottish hillsides
- 68 Touched down
- 69 Map abbrs.
- 70 Doctors degrees in education
- 71 The "B" of N.B.
- 72 To be, to Brutus
- 9 Bowfin genus
- 10 Weasel out
- 11 List of chapters
- 12 Iguanid lizard
- 16 Bygone airline
- 18 Cavort
- 19 Chef's protection
- 24 Superlative suffix
- 26 Where to find Eugene
- 28 Auction off
- 29 Wynken, Blynken and Nod, e.g.
- 30 Some fishermen
- 32 Datebook abbr.
- 35 Piña colada ingredient
- 37 Right-hand person
- 38 Sheltered, nautically
- 40 Atlas abbr.
- 43 Pianist Gilels
- 46 Direct elsewhere
- 47 Having a dusty purplish pink color
- 50 Pressed
- 52 Missile type inits.
- 53 Caterpillar rival
- 55 Oarlock
- 57 Priestly garb
- 58 Low in pitch
- 60 Valhalla chief
- 62 One-spots
- 63 Court order?
- 65 "A little \_\_\_'ll do ya" (Hair care)
- 66 It makes one hot

Down

- 1 Stake driver
- 2 "Alfred" composer
- 3 Standing there can get you killed
- 4 Hoosier humorist
- 5 Oceanic birds
- 6 Result of overexercise
- 7 Antigone's cruel uncle
- 8 Where Lux. is

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S	U	G	O	N	D	O	L	A	B	B	D	O	G	S	L	E	D

Bicycle	Gondola	Pram	Taxi
Blimp	Helicopter	Rickshaw	Train
Boat	Horse	Scooter	Tram
Bus	Hovercraft	Segway	Trolley
Cable Car	Jet Ski	Ship	Truck
Carriage	Jitney	Skibob	Van
Dog Sled	Moped	Snow Mobile	Yacht
Dune Buggy	Motorcycle	Subway	
Ferry	Plane	Tank	

## Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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

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# W.C. Clarke's brews community over time

By Jocelyn Bilker  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The smell of roasted coffee beans drifts out from 234 E. Calder Way every morning, inviting students, professors and longtime locals down the steps into W.C. Clarke's Coffee Roasters and Cheese Shoppe, a small café that has been part of State College life since 1976.

Inside, 82-year-old William (Bill) Clarke stands by the roaster, moving with the precision of someone who has done this for nearly half a century. He opened the shop and sold it a few years ago to focus on his late wife.

"Now, I come in six days a week and then go home," Clarke said.

That routine, he said, has kept him connected to the community for almost 50 years. Clarke said he feels there's a community within a community.

"In the morning you have realtors, plumbers, carpenters, real estate people," Clarke said. "Then you get the police officers that come in before they start their day. Then later, you get the rugby players, soccer coaches. If you come in and look, no one's on computers here. They talk."

Before it became known for its rich espresso and locally roasted beans, The Cheese Shoppe was exactly what its name suggested: shelves filled with imported cheese, crackers and gourmet foods. Clarke said he adapted as the food world evolved.

"I ran a cheese and gourmet shop in Wilkes-Barre for 34 years," Clarke said.

Grocery stores started carrying more gourmet stuff in the 1980s, so Clarke said he had to transition to a coffee-focused business.

Mark Johnson, who has managed the shop for the past six years, said that shift helped the business endure.

"Back when Bill started, all these walls were shelved with

gourmet food items like cookies, crackers, dried pastas, jams, jellies and mustard," Johnson said. "The evolution of coffee geared us in that direction. Coffee became our bread and butter and Bill learned how to roast."

Even now, the shop still sells a few specialty cheeses as a nod to its roots, but coffee roasting defines its identity.

"Our Cheese Shoppe blend is a combination of a few beans that, for our espresso shots, equal a nice crème," Johnson said. "A lot of places use very dark, bitter beans, but ours combines a medium and a light roast with a dark. It's got an interesting balance."

That attention to flavor is something Clarke takes pride in. He roasts each batch by hand without automation.

"I rely on my senses without a computer," Clarke said. "It's part science, part art. Things change every year in coffee beans, like too much rain or not enough sun, so you've got to feel it."

Johnson said Clarke's roasting approach, which is grounded in intuition, tradition and trust, defines the atmosphere of the shop itself.

For Ava Swanson, the shop's warmth is what drew her in.

"I've only been working here since September, but it feels like I've worked here for years," Swanson, a fourth-year studying psychology, said. "I've never had a job with such a strong sense of community. It's like coming to a second home."

She said Halloween captured that perfectly. Each of the workers dressed up as Bill.

"Vest, glasses, hat, even fake pipes, we all wore everything," Swanson said. "The smile on his face made it so evident that he loved it. It was just such a good laugh."

Swanson said the shop's long history and consistency make it stand out in a college town that's

constantly changing.

"It's really hard for an establishment to maintain such a connected environment for so long," she said. "You walk in, and people say hi. It smells like real coffee and it's authentic."

The Cheese Shoppe's regulars have built their own connections over the years, including Brent DiLella, who first discovered the shop as a Penn State undergraduate student and never left.

"After I graduated and got a job at Penn State, I kept coming back," he said. "About ten years ago, I started fixing the roaster, and now I have keys. I'm kind of an unofficial employee."

DiLella said what keeps him and everyone else returning is the people and the community.

"I don't think I've met many people who've come in here and said it wasn't a cool spot," DiLella said. "They all end up coming back."

The sense of trust that defines the shop isn't just between regulars. It's baked into the way Clarke runs his business. He described the way he trusts people enough to pay for their own coffee. People can just come in and grab their coffee, leave their money on the counter and go.

That trust, Clarke said, has shaped everything about the shop from its regulars to its future.

"I'm just the roaster now," he said. "It was hard at first, just being the roaster. But Mark is really good. He reminds me of me when I was younger. At 82, what do I know? But this town keeps you young."

Clarke said his motivation lies in his love of people.

"You trust your gut, you trust your heart and you love what you do," he said. "If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life."

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## Did I pick the wrong place to study abroad?

Last week I went to Dublin and, in all honesty, I may have chosen the wrong city to study abroad this semester. I absolutely loved it.

One of my flatmates, Margaret, and I decided to take a super quick trip, so we only had about 36 hours to explore the city.

I don't know if I've ever run myself so ragged exploring a new place, but we did what we felt we needed to do to see the city.

We visited the National Gallery of Ireland, went to the James Joyce Centre, walked around Trinity College, saw some live music and walked from one end of the city to the other to catch our bus back to the airport.

I thought the city was incredibly beautiful, and I loved the views overlooking the River

Liffey. I was impressed by the city's diverse architectural styles and the sense of community I felt while I was there.

In London, I would say that there are communities.

Certain neighborhoods are tight-knit, but London as a whole isn't a cohesive community in the same way I felt Dublin was.

It seemed like the residents really had one another's backs.

I experienced little acts of kindness, like the Starbucks employee giving me the bathroom code for free, that I wouldn't ever expect to happen to London.

I'm also a bit of a news junkie and a fan of anything literary or written, so I was floored by the print newsstands on what felt like every corner.

I was so excited to be in a city that still values physical newspapers in 2025.

The public signage was also written in both English and

Irish Gaelic, which I found to be so beautiful.

I love to see people embracing their heritage, and this small act of resistance against colonialism was incredibly cool to see.

Genuinely, I think Dublin is my favorite place I've ever visited.

Even though I only had 36 hours to explore, I feel as if I physically saw most of the city. But I didn't get to explore every nook and cranny that I wanted to.

I didn't get to visit Dublin Castle, and I didn't venture outside of the city to any of Ireland's hiking trails. I may or may not be on a flight back tomorrow.

In my somewhat brief exploration, however, I found Dublin to be a smaller and therefore a more walkable city than London.

London has the infrastructure for you to be able to walk most places in the city, but things are

often so far apart that doing so would take too long. It's often better to take the tube.

Speaking of public transportation, there were

**"I experienced little acts of kindness, like the Starbucks employee giving me the bathroom code for free"**

Alli Satterfield

above-ground trams and trains in Dublin, which caught me completely off guard.

I didn't get the chance to use the system because I was walking everywhere I went, but it's a different sight than London's mostly underground tube.

It seemed to operate similarly to London's bus system, but without the double-decker, nausea-inducing aspect.

Generally, I think it's also fair to say that Dublin had fewer skyscrapers than London, which gave it more of a relatable vibe to me, which is, of course, in addition to the kindness and solidarity I witnessed throughout the city.

The collective national pride was uplifting, and the city's support of James Joyce finally convinced me to read "Ulysses." I'm on the second page, and I'm already confused.

But, if I finish it in time, it's going to be a great conversation starter on State Patty's

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Cartoon by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | Jadzia Santiago

## No, I won't 'just be myself'

Alright, get out the tomatoes and perhaps the stones, because I'm a hypocrite.

Not exactly, but still, I think I've made some incomplete statements. I know, I know, apology video

**Santiago** (with tears) coming soon.

In all seriousness, here's what I'm guilty of: in my past columns, I've advocated for being "cringe and free," as the internet puts it.

I support the idea, I do! But honestly, every time someone repeats some flavor of that advice which boils down to "just be yourself" in my daily life, I want to bang my head against the nearest wall.

If you're anything like me, you probably feel the same way, or have at some point. And I'm willing to bet that it's because said advice can feel disingenuous and unhelpful.

Why? Because most of the time, the advice doesn't acknowledge the social consequences of following it, let alone teach you how to cope.

I'll admit, even in my cringe culture column, I only acknowledged these consequences to ask others to stop enforcing them. But what about the ones dealing with that enforcement?

A good chunk of us learned young that it's hard to "be your-

self" or "ignore the haters" in the middle of a literal or metaphorical circle of people laughing at you. Besides, it seems like doing that is what's making you miserable.

And when you plop down on a loved one's armchair, friend's rug or sometimes even a therapist's couch for a solution to that misery, you're told to ... keep doing the thing that's seemingly causing it?

Let's be real: you live in a world where people can and will punish you for their opinions. Unfortunately, there really are negative consequences for being outside the norm or not fitting a standard, and to say otherwise or ignore this fact is negligent at best.

As such, until the mythical day when everyone else learns to love themselves, "being yourself" alone isn't a solution for many experiencing those punishments.

So, what is the solution? How do you cope? Haha, well, about that -

You know, I spend a lot of my columns begging for mercy, which I should probably unpack. But regardless, I once again implore you to spare me - at least for a second.

I'll be honest and say that coping with the social consequences of selfhood is still something I'm working through. Like some other things I've written about, it isn't something I've accomplished or mastered. So, I'll start with this: I don't

blame you if you change yourself to fit social norms or standards and, thus, avoid consequences. That's right, I don't, not one bit.

I say this because, as I experience the general discourse on this subject, in both real life and online, there seems to be this pervasive idea that hiding from the ever-present hammer of cruelty makes you evil, somehow.

I understand where this point comes from. Bending to a social norm or standard *does* enforce it in a way - I'll give you that.

There's also an argument that self-suppression will always leak out onto others. As I've said before, I'm aware that it can sometimes, and I believe that it causes many people's malice toward others when it does.

However, I think the subject is far more nuanced than these things, and that moralizing conformity *on its own* only leads to more shame. I don't agree that changing or hiding yourself for fear of consequences is some sort of great betrayal to an intangible cause.

This isn't to say that it's not harmful, because self-suppression is still a form of self-betrayal. However, I understand that much of the world - especially when you're a young adult finding your place in it - is either a rock or a hard place, and you have to choose what feels best for you. Even though I encourage

authenticity, I can't get on my soapbox and demand it from you, because despite the painful effects of self-suppression and the fact that I'd never advocate for it, I have no real alternative for relief.

Professionals might, but at the ripe age of 21, I don't.

But speaking from experience, when self-suppression starts to *work*, when you *finally* see results, it's easy to start believing that it was you who was wrong all along.

I mean, perform well enough and you're floating around this previously inhospitable campus, having transformed it into somewhere safe. Why would it work so well if you weren't the issue?

So, if anything, I want to tell you that you're not the issue. There's nothing wrong with you or who you are, and I'm sorry that the world is broadly ... like that.

It's your choice who you share your personality with, and it's not evil or cowardly to protect yourself. At the end of the day, I just hope that you find a hospitable corner of the world while the rest of it catches up. I think we all deserve that, at least.

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## ‘Bleeds red, white and blue’

### Maximus Mulhauser balances ROTC, equestrian passion

By Noah Aberegg  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From a young age, Maximus Muhlhauser showed love for two things — horses and his country. **EQUESTRIAN** “My family has always been a very patriotic family, and I’ve always heard a lot about the military,” Muhlhauser, a second-year studying economics, said. “I’ve also rode horses since I was 10.”

Muhlhauser followed in his dad’s footsteps in several aspects of his life, including the military and his horse riding. Markus Muhlhauser, Maximus’ dad, spent a short time serving in the marines and several years riding horses.

At 10 years old, Maximus began riding English equestrian, and from there, his dedication skyrocketed.

“The (equestrian people) like Max have a responsibility to something greater than themselves, if you will,” Markus said. “When you go into practice, (the work) doesn’t end after practice and it doesn’t end after the show. This is a kid who was hooking up massive goose-neck trailers to F-450’s when he was 12 years old.”

Over the next few years, Maximus continued his English equestrian work. When he got accepted into Penn State, he knew he wanted to continue his involvement with horses.

However, he also knew he wanted to get involved with the Reserves Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), as he was initially debating between attending the military academy or going to Penn State.

“I was doing my orientation and that’s when I stopped by ROTC and was just like, ‘Where do I sign up?’” Maximus said. “I visited them a bunch during that summer and as soon as the normal school year started, I was in full force.”

For Maximus’ parents, his



Maximus Mulhauser stands with a friend in Beaver Stadium.

Courtesy of Maximus Muhlhauser

decision to join ROTC and eventually serve in the military was worrisome at first, but eventually it evoked a sense of pride in their son.

“While he has this opportunity to just go to college and have everything paid for, his choice is actually to serve this country first,” Markus said. “It makes me incredibly proud of him and his mother very proud.”

Shortly after the fall semester got underway, Maximus tried out for the Penn State Western Equestrian Club team, changing riding styles but continuing his love for horses.

“He’s a very modest and humble young man,” Markus said. “He’s won so many championships and so forth as an equestrian prior to coming to Penn State that I think it was a natural transition for him here.”

Similarly to everything Maximus did in life, he made an instant impact on the equestrian team with his actions being noticed by his coach.

“He has been a positive influence for others on the team,” Christopher McElyea, the coach of the Penn State Club Western Equestrian team, said. “He’s

always very complimentary of everybody and he always has a positive attitude, takes the time to tell the other kids good job if they’re struggling or something.”

However, what was even more impressive of Maximus for both family, friends, coaches and mentors was his participation in Ranger Assessment Phase week for ROTC.

In an effort to make the Penn State ROTC Ranger team, Maximus competed in an intense training week and ultimately made the team reserves.

“It’s affectionately known as hell week,” Markus said. “They basically want you to quit the whole time, and it’s a test of how determined you are.”

Competing against dozens of other ROTC members for a spot on the team, Maximus came through victorious as just one of a few freshmen.

In addition to the physical battles that he faced in ROTC, Maximus was challenged mentally due to the various tasks he had to balance between school, ROTC and the equestrian team.

“It definitely gets a lot sometimes,” Maximus said. “Sometimes we don’t have that

much going on for ROTC and the riding team, but then other times we’ll have a lot of stuff for ROTC and a lot of stuff for academics and the riding team. That was

“For him, he looks at it as an honor to serve and protect us. He’s very in tune with the fact that freedom isn’t free and we live in an amazing world.”

Markus Mulhauser

last week and it’s like a perfect storm.”

Regardless of the current commitments Maximus faces, he fights them one step at a time and accomplishes what he needs to do in order to succeed.

“I would say (he handles things) very well because I hadn’t even noticed any difference in him versus any other kids,” McElyea said. “He seems to manage the schedule fine, an

d he practices twice a week and then we show.”

As Maximus has progressed through his ROTC experience and nears the end of his third semester in the program, he’s begun to think about his future in the program and what it means to him.

“He’s looking forward to once he graduates and once he gets commissioned,” Markus said. “His goals are very much focused on how good of a leader he can be and how well he can serve those underneath him.”

Approaching his second Veterans Day as a future serviceman, Maximus appreciates the service of those who have served before him and will serve with him in the years to come.

“It’s a good day to give appreciation to those who are okay with not having a comfortable job,” Maximus said. “It’s not about being comfortable or being in a good position. It’s about being uncomfortable and doing your best to stay alive.”

While his friends in the ROTC program will serve beside him one day, his teammates on the equestrian team support him in his role outside the team.

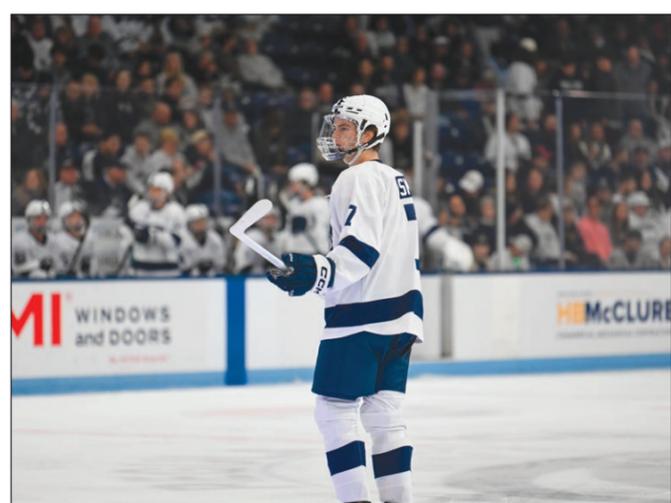
“His involvement is just everything,” McElyea said. “I think it’s great, and the whole team supports him and his veterans.”

While Maximus had the opportunity to attend college without the stress and physical toll and burden of the ROTC, as well as going onto a career after graduation, he chose to enroll in ROTC and serve his country for several years post-graduation.

“For him, he looks at it as an honor to serve and protect us,” Markus said. “He’s very in tune with the fact that freedom isn’t free and we live in an amazing world. He loves all the freedoms that we have in the U.S. The kid bleeds red, white and blue.”

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## Familiar issues hinder team



Megan Miller/The Daily Collegian

Defender Jackson Smith (7) watches the action during the Penn State men’s ice hockey home opening game against Clarkson.

By Evan Smith  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State men’s hockey traveled to Michigan State to face its toughest test of the season this past weekend, and escaped with bruises caused by a sweep at the hands of the Spartans.

The Nittany Lions were outclassed throughout the contests, only scoring one goal across the weekend.

Here are the key things to adjust, ahead of another highly-touted battle against Michigan on Friday and Saturday.

### High talent halts success

The series against Michigan State was the first that featured name-value rivaling that of the revamped Penn State lineup.

The Nittany Lions were unable to control those players, leading to the losses over the weekend.

On offense, Gavin McKenna’s former Team Canada teammate Porter Martone notched two points in Saturday’s loss, and controlled the flow of both games.

Martone contributed to a plethora of scoring chances and physically outdualed the Nittany Lions with big hits and in post-whistle scrums. Minnesota Wild prospect Charlie Stramel benefitted from Martone’s

dominance as well, netting a couple goals of his own while playing alongside the top-ten pick.

The main star responsible for blanking the Nittany Lions was goaltender Trey Augustine, who only allowed one goal across the two games. Penn State peppered Augustine for multiple portions of the games, but it failed to earn chances that would sneak past the elite goalie.

The Nittany Lions face another goalie with similar numbers in Jack Ivankovic this weekend.

If Penn State wants to return to the Frozen Four, it needs to be able to play up to this level of opponent.

### Third period scrappiness

The series was scrappy from the get-go, as seemingly every series has been for Penn State.

However, late in the third period on Saturday, a conflict erupted unlike any other, resulting in the complete breakdown of the game for Penn State.

Trailing 3-0, Jarod Crespo started a brawl that escalated quickly. The whole line came along pushing and shoving, until Jackson Smith lost his head, and his helmet, and ended up tackling a referee trying to get back in the pile.

Moments later, a Spartan jumped on Crespo and began raining down punches.

The scuffle resulted in nine penalties and a Penn State power-play that was quickly erased to a 4-on-4. The Nittany Lions continued taking penalties until the Spartans had a 5-0 lead and any hope of a comeback was slashed.

Discipline remains an issue for the Nittany Lions.

### Confidence and chemistry

Penn State’s roster is better on paper than any year in the past, but thus far, the talent is jelling.

When the team wins, its confidence is off the charts, trolling fans and having fun behind the scenes. However, when the players are off, they look unable to play the game like their name-value would imply.

McKenna started gaining some traction alongside Aiden Fink, but with Fink out injured, it seemed like McKenna’s comfortability dropped in this series. One goal in the second game was directly caused by McKenna flubbing the puck in the neutral zone, and he looked like a non-factor on the ice most of the weekend.

The power play was a moot point as well, resulting in more highlight reel opportunities for the Spartans than the Nittany Lions.

Even the “Behind the Back Boys” line was held scoreless, resulting in an offensive dud for Penn State. Especially on a team constructed like the blue and white, one line cannot be dictating the entire offensive flow.

### Up Next

All the issues that arose in the lesser-non-conference games came to bite Penn State in its largest series of the season.

Michigan is a similar team to the Spartans, featuring a depth of talent and a star goaltender in Ivankovic. Penn State will have to prepare around the elite goaltender, and work on stopping star forwards, like Will Horcoff.

These issues plagued them last weekend and will be key against the Wolverines.

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## NCAA Tourney History

By Elsa Brumbaugh  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State women’s soccer burst onto the Division I scene in 1994, and only a year later earned its first NCAA **SOCCER** Tournament berth.

The blue and white have been a permanent fixture in the tournament ever since, with 31 consecutive appearances. It extended its historic streak with an at-large bid to the 2025 tournament.

Despite their consistent appearances in the tournament, the Nittany Lions have only claimed victory once.

Ranked No. 6 in the nation at the end of the season with a 16-3-2 record, Penn State entered the 2015 NCAA tournament as a strong No. 1 seed in search of redemption after a quarterfinal exit the previous year.

Under current coach Erica Dambach, the blue and white breezed past the first few rounds of competition, putting up impressive scorelines of 5-0 against Albany, 6-0 against Boston University, and 4-0 against rivals Ohio State.

Their success continued on into the Elite Eight and Final Four with matching 2-0 victories against West Virginia and Rutgers.

In the championship game against No. 3-seed Duke — who previously handed Penn State one of its only ties of the regular season in a double overtime match — the Nittany Lions pulled out a close 1-0 win.

On the road to their first NCAA championship win, goalkeeper Britt Eckerstrom maintained a clean sheet, allowing zero goals by opponents throughout the tournament.

Team captain Raquel Rodriguez also delivered a standout performance, and became one of only two Penn State players to ever win the MAC Hermann Trophy.

The Nittany Lions have played in the tournament every year since their victory in 2015, but have yet to replicate that success.

Following 2015, they’ve consistently made it to at least the third round of the tournament, with their earliest exit coming the next year in 2016 with a 3-0 loss to Virginia in the second round.

With four third-round and four quarterfinal eliminations since their championship win, Penn State has performed well, but struggles when faced with talented, top-seeded teams like Florida State, Stanford and Clemson.

One of these quarterfinal exits came in 2024, when the blue and white faced off against women’s college soccer powerhouse North Carolina.

The Tar Heels boast an all-time record of 22 national championships, with Florida State trailing far behind in second with four.

After taking an early lead, the Nittany Lions allowed North Carolina to tie it up late in the first half, and later fell 2-1 in overtime. The Tar Heels went on to win their 22nd national championship, beating Wake Forest 1-0.

Despite recently failing to make the later stages of the tournament, the Nittany Lions have performed well historically.

Penn State entered the 2012 NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed, and made it all the way to the championship where it once again took on North Carolina.

After making it through a Sweet 16 against Michigan, which was won on penalty kicks and a semifinal against Florida State, won in overtime, the Nittany Lions fell 4-1 to the Tar Heels, and were runner-ups.

The blue and white made it to the semifinals of the tournament in 1999, 2002 and 2005, but were eliminated each year by the future champion team.

Penn State has cemented itself as one of the nation’s most consistent programs, and will begin its next bid for a national championship with home-field advantage against Army West Point at 5 p.m. on Saturday at Jeffrey Field.

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