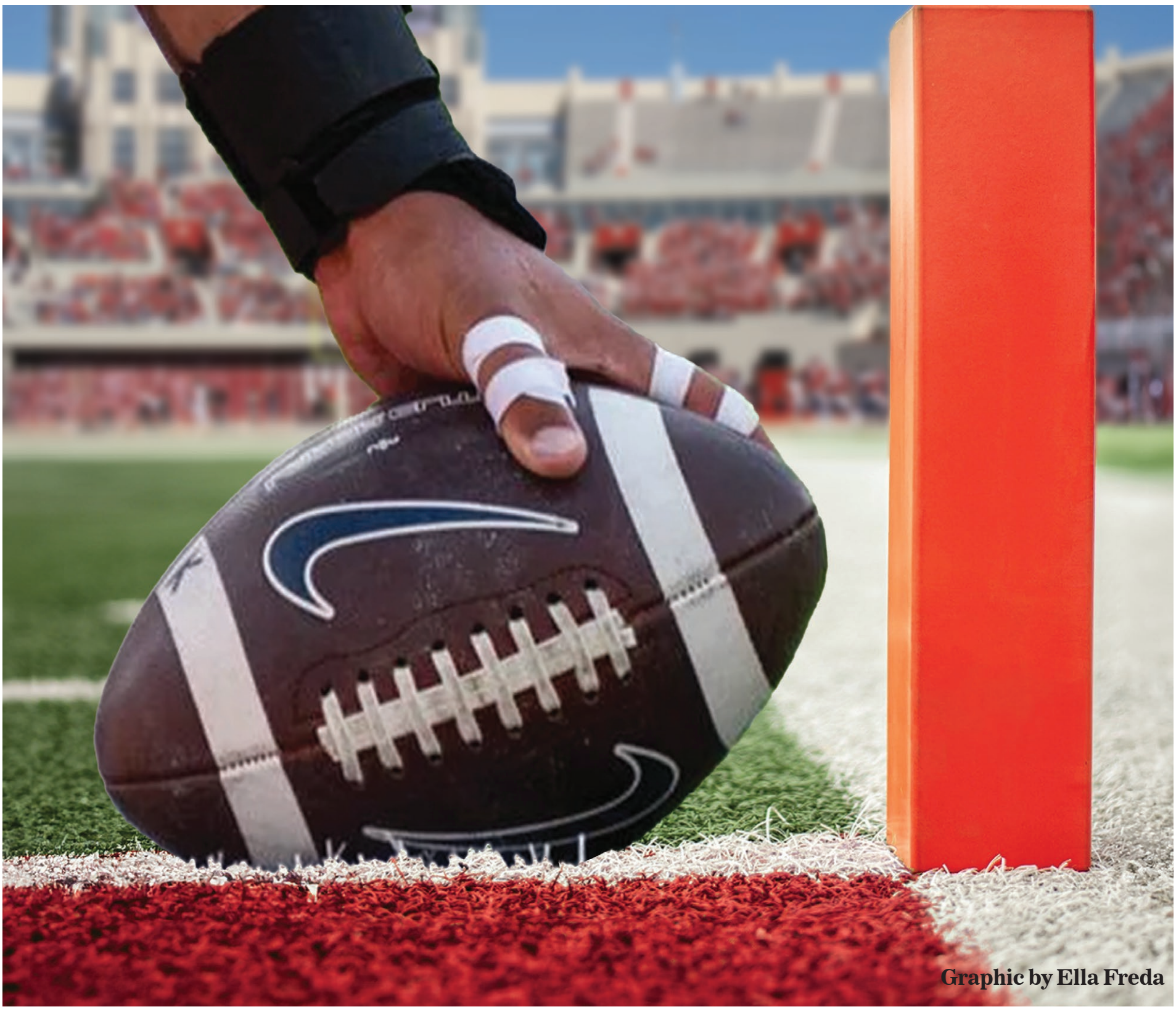
Published independently by students at Penn State

VERSUS

Vol. 124, No. 10 Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 @DailyCollegian

INDIANA (2-5) HOOSIERS

(5-1) PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS



Graphic by Ella Freda

'UPLIFT THE STANDARD'

How Indiana's 2020 shocker was Penn State's 'launch pad' for success

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Indiana quarterback Michael Penix Jr. scrambled to his left with Penn State safety Jaquan Brisker racing toward him. The goal line seemed impossibly far away.

The Hoosiers had just scored a touchdown and trailed the Nittany Lions 34-35 in overtime. An extra point would've tied it, but coach Tom Allen went for the jugular. They were going for two.

If Indiana converted the two-point attempt, it would cap off a special night in Bloomington — the program's first win over a top-10 team since the Reagan administration.

"I told (Penix) right before the play, if you gotta run it, run it in," running back Stevie Scott III said postgame. "Don't be scared to run. If nobody's open, go ahead and run it in."

Running out of room along the sideline, the left-handed quarterback switched the ball to his right mitt and left his feet from the 3-yard line. His body almost parallel to the Memorial Stadium turf, Penix used every last inch of his 6-foot-3 frame to reach for the pylon.

Penix and Brisker both hit the ground hard. The pylon fell over, and the ball dribbled through the end zone. The Hoosiers threw their hands in the air, while the Nittany Lions waved their arms side to side.

It was ruled a touchdown on the field, and after a suspenseful review process, the call stood.

Indiana had beaten Penn State for just the second time in program history, doing so in a season opener in October with less than 1,000 fans in attendance.

In 2020, this was the new normal.

"Being in the middle of a pandemic with so much sickness and some deaths going on and all these things, it made it tough for football to be the biggest and primary focus as it usually is," former Penn State defensive tackle Aeneas Hawkins told The Daily Collegian.

COVID-19 raged across the United States, shutting down businesses, schools and bringing daily life to a screeching halt. Collegiate athletics were thrust into a period of uncertainty.

The Big Ten announced a 10-game, conference-only schedule in August along with a laundry list of medical protocols. Just five days later, the conference postponed the season.

In September, the Big Ten tightened protocols and shifted opening weekend to Oct. 24. After two months of cancellations and a quickly spreading virus, players weren't sure they'd have a season at all.

"It was weird, honestly. We didn't even know if we were playing," former Penn State offensive lineman C.J. Thorpe told the Collegian. "It was just odd all around, getting (COVID) tested every day just to maybe play a season."

As mask wearing and social distancing became a part of daily life, Penn State prepared for an unprecedented season.

The Nittany Lions were expected to have a good year. The No. 8 team in the nation was coming off of a Cotton Bowl victory in 2019 and was expected to go far once again.

"We felt confident as ever," Hawkins said.

"We handled, in my opinion, COVID in a very mature way in terms of staying healthy, showing up, putting in the work."

In contrast, Indiana was a perennial cellar dweller in the Big Ten that had a dismal 1-22 record against Penn State.

On that Saturday night, though, the Hoosiers were "a lot tougher" than the Nittany Lions expected.

"I don't know if it's that we didn't give them the respect they deserved necessarily, but Indiana, normally it's not that close of a game," Thorpe said.

The same way that the pandemic had turned the world upside down, the Hoosiers flipped the script against a program they had been chasing for 27 years.

"All I'd seen basically was an opportunity — an opportunity to go out and show the world what the Indiana Hoosiers are all about," Penix said postgame.

It was the young quarterback's heroics that even put Indiana in position to walk it off in overtime.

Penix engineered a seven-play, 75-yard march with less than two minutes to go, scoring both the touchdown and game-tying two-point conversion with his legs.

Trailing again in overtime, Penix found receiver Whop Philyor in the end zone to set the stage for one of the most iconic plays in the Hoosiers' relatively hapless history.

It was an incredible athletic feat for Penix to even sniff the goal line on his immaculate stretch, but did he actually cross the plane?

"I am still in 2023 a proponent, a guy that will tell you I don't think he got in," Hawkins said.

"As soon as I seen that pylon go down, I knew what time it was," Scott said. "I knew that ball was in there. Mike got a long body, he got long arms."

"It's a hard thing for sure, you kinda can't believe it. It was one of those plays that could have went either way, but probably should have went the other," Thorpe said.

Three years later, it's still disputed whether Penix got in, but the damage was already done. It was a "disheartening" loss that started Penn State's season off on the wrong foot.

"It was not fun," tackle Caedan Wallace said. "That was one of my least favorite Penn State games."

Things got historically bad for the Nittany Lions — their 0-5 start to the season was the worst in program history and guaranteed their first losing season since 2004.

The losing streak was an amalgamation of factors, both in and out of the program's control.

"It's hard to pinpoint one thing," Hawkins said.

"In the Big Ten, let alone the Big Ten in a pandemic, everything matters, and the smallest detail can decide a win or loss, and I think we found that out the hard way in 2020."

Even in the lowest of lows for Penn State, it found the resolve to dig itself out of the hole and rack up some wins.

It started with a 27-17 win over Michigan in Ann Arbor, a gratifying win for a locker room that had nothing to celebrate for months.

"It felt even more special because we knew that we had to fight through so much to even get to that point," Hawkins said. "Obviously we wanted to uplift the standard and never be put in that situation again."

The Nittany Lions kept rolling, winning their final three games to finish at 4-5.

The way Penn State closed the season not only washed the bad taste out of the players' mouths, but it served as a "launch pad" for future success.

Many of the program's current veteran leaders were underclassmen on that team, and the adversity they faced in 2020 helped the Nittany Lions establish themselves on the biggest stage once again.

"They've seen it at its lowest, and they've seen what it takes to build back up to being able to compete with the highest and the brightest and the best that the country has to offer," Hawkins said. "I think that's why you see them have so much success now."

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Darron Cummings/AP file photo

The Nittany Lions left the field after the 2020 Hoosiers win against Penn State. "I don't know if it's that we didn't give them the respect they deserved necessarily, but Indiana, normally it's not that close," C.J. Thorpe said.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

Deciphering Penn State's loss to Ohio State and what comes next for the program

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

COLUMBUS, Ohio — It was five years ago, following a 27-26 loss against Ohio State, that James Franklin declared Penn State's status in the world of college football.

"We've gone from an average football team to a good football team to a great football team," Franklin said. "But we're not an elite team yet."

This year's Penn State team is arguably Franklin's most complete roster to date. It's a group so established that he proclaimed on Wednesday that he thought his program was finally "closing the gap with what a lot of people would consider the top-five programs in the country."

Saturday's tilt at Ohio State was supposed to be the Nittany Lions' official grand entrance into the nation's upper class. In the form of a devastating 20-12 loss, however, the game became a potential funeral for Penn State's College Football Playoff hopes if the program is unable to beat Michigan on Nov. 11.

What went wrong?

As Penn State returned to the locker room after the loss, the offense and defense didn't do much talking, tight end Theo Johnson said. One unit played like a national contender, holding a historically high-powered offense to just 20 points while tallying nine tackles for loss and five pass breakups.

The other? Not so much.

The Nittany Lion offense tallied a season-low 240 total yards, snapped a 13-game streak of scoring at least 30 points and racked up its lowest point total (12) since a 42-7 loss at Michigan in 2018.

"I'm not sure if we didn't just watch two of the best teams in college football, obviously specifically on the defensive side of the ball," Franklin said.

It's easy to point fingers, but that's exactly what defensive coordinator Manny Diaz told his players not to do after such a lopsided performance between units. "Everybody stay together," said defensive end Adisa Isaac, restating Diaz's message.

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar, fresh off of facing his first true piece of adversity as Penn State's starter, had other plans. He took the finger and pointed it right at himself.

"Sucked," a tearing-eyed Allar said when asked how he'd assess his performance.

Allar struggled mightily, completing 18-of-42 pass attempts for 191 yards and a garbage-time touchdown. It didn't help that his receivers dealt with drops and miscues as his offensive line allowed him to hit the turf for a season-high four sacks.

All those things, headed by inefficient play calling by offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich combined for a dreadful performance for Penn State's offense, which went just 1-for-16 on 3rd downs — the worst conversion percentage by any AP-ranked team in a game over the last 10 seasons, per ESPN Stats & Info.



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

James Franklin refrained from answering "big-picture questions" after Penn State fell 20-12 to Ohio State, the Nittany Lions' seventh consecutive loss against the Buckeyes.

"I think it was a combination of too many 3rd and longs (and) obvious passing downs, which obviously you want to stay out of and manage," Franklin said. "Even when we did have some short-yardage situations, they were playing cover zero. We felt coming into this game, this was one of the better short-yardage defenses that we had seen on film."

What comes next?

The path to a playoff debut is hazy and unlikely if Penn State is unable to defeat the Wolverines. No two-loss team has ever qualified, and that isn't likely to change in one of the most nationally competitive seasons at the top of the field.

For Allar, the loss felt like a dagger he knew all too well, comparing the defeat to his final game at Medina High School.

"We lost and the season was over," Allar said.

The emotions set in for a number of disappointed Nittany Lions when they exited the locker room and made their way into Ohio State's visitor's team media room.

Saturday marked Allar's first loss as a starter, but other veteran leaders, such as Johnson, are familiar with defeat and aren't quite ready to call it quits.

"There's been championship teams that have had one loss before," Johnson said. "So, this is not the end of our story… But we do need to improve."

In hopes of qualifying for a playoff, the improvement needs to come from across the board on offense.

Led by Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen, the run game struggled yet again on Saturday as neither running back broke 50 rushing yards. this year.

Continue reading here:

Chop Robinson expected to return in 2023



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Chop Robinson was evaluated by trainers for an extended period before he was carted off the field at Ohio State on Oct. 21.

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After maintaining a relatively healthy roster throughout the first half of the schedule, Penn State was dealt a blow when defensive end Chop Robinson, one of the team's most important pieces, went down in the first half against Ohio State and didn't return.

Franklin doesn't typically comment on injuries unless they're season-ending, but made an exception when he met with the media on Tuesday. Franklin said that he doesn't anticipate Robinson's injury to be a "long-term issue," but that "you never know when it comes to medical."

"Hopefully we'll be getting Chop back here soon," Franklin said.

Robinson, a former 5-star recruit, transferred to the Nittany Lions after spending his freshman season at Maryland, and has thrived under the Manny Diaz system.

Robinson has received some love as a potential first-round draft pick in 2024 and ranks second on the team in sacks after starting every contest.

Opposite Robinson has been fifth-year Adisa Isaac, with former 5-star Dani Dennis-Sutton cycling in in relief. With Robinson out for an undisclosed amount of time, Dennis-Sutton should see an increased role.

Dennis-Sutton's starter-level talent minimizes the drop-off in Robinson's absence, though the overall depth of the position room takes a hit without Robinson. Redshirt junior Zuriah Fisher and junior Amin Vanover are other options at defensive end, both earning considerable playing time this season.

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INDIANA HOOSIERS FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Andison Coby	WR/Jr.	19	Roman Purcell	QB/So.	41	Lanell Carr Jr.	LB/Sr.	70	Bubba Jeffries	OL/Fr.
0	Noah Pierre	CB/Sr.	19	Josh Sanguinetti	DB/Sr.	42	Darryl Minor Jr.	LB/Sr.	71	Will Larkins	OL/Fr.
1	Andre Carter	DL/Sr.	20	Louis Moore	DB/Sr.	43	Matt Hohlt	LB/So.	73	Austin Barrett	OL/Fr.
1	Donaven McCulley	WR/Jr.	22	Jamari Sharpe	DB/Fr.	44	Aaron Casey	LB/Sr.	74	Bray Lynch	OL/Fr.
2	Tayven Jackson	QB/Fr.	23	Jordan Shaw	CB/Fr.	45	Lincoln Murff	DB/Fr.	76	Matthew Bedford	OL/Sr.
2	James Monds III	DB/Fr.	24	Bryson Bonds	DB/Jr.	45	Trey Walker	TE/Sr.	77	Joshua Sales Jr.	OL/So.
3	Omar Cooper Jr.	WR/Fr.	24	Jackson Wasserstrom	WR/Fr.	46	Isaiah Jones	LB/Fr.	78	Cooper Jones	OL/So.
3	JoJo Johnson	DB/So.	25	Amare Ferrell	DB/Fr.	47	Finn Walters	LB/Fr.	79	Max Williams	OL/Fr.
4	DeQuece Carter	WR/Sr.	25	Daniel Weems	RB/So.	48	James Bomba	TE/So.	80	Derrick Bohler	WR/Fr.
4	Anthony Jones	LB/Fr.	26	Josh Henderson	RB/Fr.	48	Sam Tallen	LB/Fr.	80	Chris Freeman	K/Jr.
5	Kobee Minor	DB/Jr.	26	Joshua Rudolph	LB/Jr.	49	Ta'Derius Collins	DL/Fr.	81	Brady Simmons	WR/Fr.
5	Dexter Williams II	QB/Jr.	27	Trent Howland	RB/So.	49	Zac Scott	TE/Sr.	82	Bradley Archer	TE/Sr.
6	Cam Camper	WR/Sr.	27	Xavier Trueblood	LB/Jr.	50	Zach Carpenter	OL/Sr.	83	Eli Jochem	WR/So.
6	Phillip Dunnam	DB/Sr.	28	Jaz Boykin	DB/Fr.	51	Patrick Lucas Jr.	DL/Sr.	84	Aaron Steinfeldt	TE/So.
7	Jacob Mangum-Farrar	LB/Sr.	28	Christian Turner	RB/Sr.	52	Clayton Allen	LB/Fr.	85	Anthony Miller Jr.	TE/Fr.
7	E.J. Williams Jr.	WR/Sr.	29	Reece Bellin	WR/Fr.	53	Vincent Fiacable	OL/So.	86	Brody Foley	TE/Fr.
8	Jared Casey	LB/Sr.	29	Luke Haupert	DB/Fr.	54	Jack Greer	OL/Fr.	88	Sam West	TE/Fr.
8	Jaquez Smith	WR/So.	30	Mitchell Evans	DB/Fr.	55	Venson Sneed Jr.	DL/Fr.	89	Camden Jordan	WR/So.
9	Jamier Johnson	DB/Jr.	31	Anthony Chung	DB/Fr.	56	Mike Katic	OL/Sr.	90	J'mari Monette	DL/Fr.
10	Myles Jackson	LB/Jr.	33	Connor Hole	DB/Jr.	57	Julian Kameristy	DL/So.	91	LeDarrius Cox	DL/Sr.
10	Derin McCulley	WR/Jr.	33	David Holloman	RB/So.	58	Aden Cannon	DL/Fr.	92	Marcus Burris Jr.	DL/So.
12	Jaylin Lucas	RB/So.	34	Jeff Utzinger	LB/Fr.	60	Max Longman	OL/Sr.	93	Robby Harrison	DL/Fr.
13	Kamryn Perry	WR/Fr.	35	Aaron Stewart	DB/Fr.	61	Garrett Brown	OL/Fr.	94	James Evans	P/Jr.
14	Broc Lowry	QB/Fr.	36	Clay Conner	DB/Fr.	62	Drew Evans	OL/Fr.	95	Sean Wracher	LS/Sr.
14	Kaiden Turner	LB/Fr.	36	Reece Lozano	CB/Fr.	63	Josh Witt	OL/So.	96	Philip Blidi	DL/Sr.
15	Brendan Sorsby	QB/Fr.	37	Declan McMahon	RB/Fr.	64	Race Stewart	DL/So.	96	Alejandro Quintero	P/So.
15	Nic Toomer	DB/Jr.	37	Jackson Schott	LB/So.	65	Carter Smith	OL/Fr.	97	Jaxon Miller	LS/Fr.
16	Jordan Grier	DB/Jr.	38	Drew Pearce	DB/So.	66	Noah Bolticoff	OL/So.	98	Trey Laing	DL/Sr.
17	Tyrik McDaniel	DB/Jr.	39	Bryce Hendershot	TE/Fr.	67	Kahlil Benson	OL/Jr.	99	Nick James	DL/Fr.
18	Blaze McKibbin	QB/Jr.	39	Nicolas Radicic	K/Fr.	68	Robby Kowalewski	OL/Fr.			
18	Andrew Turvy	LB/So.	40	Orlando Greenlow	LB/Fr.	69	Carl Biddings IV	DL/Fr.			

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS FOOTBALL ROSTER

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

HOOSIER DADDY?

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



Caleb Craig/Collegian file photo

Penn State running back Tank Smith fights for extra yardage against Indiana during the Nittany Lions' 45-14 victory over the Hoosiers on Nov. 5, 2022, at Memorial Stadium in Bloomington, Indiana.

After a demoralizing loss to No. 3 Ohio State, Penn State will return home to meet one of its historical punching bags.

Indiana will come into Beaver Stadium with a 2-5 record and an 0-4 mark in conference play. The Hoosiers have lost their last three games and have been outscored 150-41 against Big Ten foes.

Penn State holds a dominant 24-2 all-time record against Indiana and has never lost at home against the Hoosiers.

The programs first crossed paths in November 1993, Penn State's first season in the Big Ten. It was one of just two matchups in the series where both teams were ranked.

The 19th-ranked Nittany Lions took down No. 17 Indiana 38-31, as quarterback Kerry Collins hit receiver Bobby Ingram for a 45-yard, game-winning touchdown pass in the fourth quarter.

Penn State opened the series with a victory and never looked back, winning the next 15 matchups from 1994-2012.

There were some close calls for the Nittany Lions, such as their 2000 matchup that took place at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Penn State faced Antwaan Randle El and Indiana's option attack in a back-and-forth battle. Knotted at 24-24, Nittany Lion quarterback Rashard Casey put together a clutch two-minute drill, setting up Ryan Primanti for a game-winning field goal.

Even in a down year like 2004, Penn State still prevailed over the Hoosiers. Led by Tamba Hali, the Nittany Lion defense made a goal-line stand to knock off Indiana 22-18, snapping a six-game losing streak at the time.

After a three-year hiatus, the series was renewed in 2007 to the same results as before. Joe Paterno finished his career with a 15-0 record against the Hoosiers.

In 2013, Indiana finally broke the streak with its first win against Penn State in program history, a 44-24 shootout win in Bloomington.

It was a duel between future NFL draft picks, as true freshman Christian Hackenberg and Indiana's Nate Sudfeld combined for 661 yards passing and five touchdowns.

The Penn State defense struggled to contain the Hoosiers, who totaled 481 yards of offense.

After that hiccup, the Nittany Lions resumed their winning ways, including the only other time the programs met in a ranked matchup.

In 2019, No. 9 Penn State hosted No. 24 Indiana in a close 34-27 battle at Beaver Stadium.

Leading by three points, the Nittany Lions embarked on a monstrous 18-play, 75-yard drive ending with a Sean Clifford touchdown that gave Penn State a 10-point lead with less than two minutes to play.

The next season brought one of the most thrilling games in the series, a 36-35 overtime stunner in 2020, Indiana's second and latest win over Penn State.

The Nittany Lions began the season ranked No. 8, but the Hoosiers spoiled Penn State's season right from the jump.

Indiana quarterback Michael Penix Jr. led the Hoosiers to a game-tying drive with less than two minutes to go, then made one of the most iconic plays in series history in overtime.

Going for a game-winning two-point conversion, Penix sprinted to his left and lunged for the pylon. The football just nicked the pylon, as Indiana walked off Penn State.

The last two meetings weren't very competitive, as the Nittany Lions won 24-0 in 2021 and 45-14 in 2022.

Penn State looks to keep its dominance going against the Hoosiers this weekend.

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On to Indiana

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State will return to Beaver Stadium to get back on track against Indiana on Saturday.

The 1-0 mindset the Nittany Lions share has shifted the focus to their matchup against the Hoosiers, which was one of James Franklin's talking points at Wednesday's post-practice press conference.

Here are three takeaways from Wednesday.

Passing game 'behind'

Penn State's pass offense had struggled through its first six games, but it was almost nonexistent against Ohio State. Ahead of Indiana, the Nittany Lions are not where Franklin would like them to be.

Quarterback Drew Allar hasn't thrown for more than 200 yards since the Nittany Lions' road win on Sept. 16 at Illinois. In that same timeframe, Allar has had three games with a completion percentage below 55%.

The lack of a passing game doesn't fall solely on Allar's shoulders, though, as separation from the wide receivers and play calling also factor into a prolific passing game.

"We're behind in the passing game," Franklin said. "I think we showed some flashes … I think some guys that have come in have transitioned a little bit slower than we had hoped, but this is an opportunity to take a step this week and build confidence."

Franklin also mentioned that wide receiver Harrison Wallace III's injury earlier in the season had an impact as well.

Moving on from Ohio State

Immediately after Penn State's loss to the Buckeyes, players were already looking to move forward with their lives and forget the loss.

By Wednesday's press conference, Ohio State wasn't on Franklin's mind.

"The best way to move on is to focus on the next opponent and learn from it, which we did on Saturday night (and) all day Sunday," Franklin said. "But then it's time to move on to the next opponent."

Of course, it was a process to move on given the magnitude and emotions that came with losing a big game.

Along with the Nittany Lions' usual 1-0 mindset, the message was to stick together as a team.

"(We're) just trying to stay connected," linebacker Abdul Carter said. "The worst thing we could do after a loss is obviously divide. We want to stay connected, leep testing each other and keep doing our job."

Injuries

Franklin provided an injury update on three Penn State players on Wednesday.

The Nittany Lions lost some production on the defensive line against Ohio State last week as defensive ends Chop Robinson and Amin Vanover went down against the Buckeyes.

"(For) Amin, it's too early to tell. I think it could be a little bit like JB (Nelson) as a game time decision," Franklin said. "And then even then, depending on how much work he got during the week there will still be a decision that needs to be made."

As for Robinson, Franklin hopes to get him back "sooner rather than later."

Vega Ioane was Penn State's sole left guard against Ohio State, despite JB Nelson not being listed on the Nittany Lions' injury report.

Nelson missed Penn State's game against UMass after being carted off the field versus Northwestern.

While Nelson was listed as healthy, he wasn't healthy enough to get the start or any sort of relief role for Ioane.

"Obviously with JB coming off an injury, he didn't get a ton of reps during the week," Franklin said. "He was available to play, but we kind of took it as more of like an emergency if somebody had gotten hurt."

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Sienna Pinney/The Daily Collegian

James Franklin addresses the media at his weekly post-practice press conference on Oct. 25 in Holuba Hall. Franklin talked about Ohio State, Indiana and injuries.



Jackson Ranger/The Daily Collegian

Linebacker Abdul Carter plays in the game against Northwestern on Sept. 30. The Nittany Lions beat the Wildcats 41-13.

Being the best

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State linebacker Abdul Carter refuses to be beaten at anything, whether that's battling on the gridiron or moving pieces on a chess board. He forced his way into the starting lineup as a freshman last season, and continues to take the Nittany Lions by storm.

He's shown glimpses of greatness in football, and at the chess table, Carter said he's unmatched.

"Whatever it may be, I want to be the best at everything … I'm definitely the best on the team," Carter said. "People try, but I haven't been beaten yet."

Football players and chess players — polar opposites in the sports world — actually share some common skills, according to Carter.

"I think it correlates a lot. I think on the go," Carter said. "In chess, some games are timed, so in football you gotta think in split seconds, so I feel like it'd definitely help there."

The Philadelphia native said his competitive drive is inspired by one of the most gifted linebackers to come out of the program: Micah Parsons.

The Dallas Cowboys' All-Pro visited his alma mater prior to the season opener against West Virginia to offer the Nittany Lions guidance and advice.

In many ways, Carter is reminiscent of Parsons during his time in Happy Valley. Both are Pennsylvania products who wear No. 11, stand at 6-foot-3 and do a little bit of everything at linebacker.

"He wanted to be the best at everything," Carter said. "He didn't accept a loss, he felt like he couldn't be beaten at anything he did."

Throughout his football career, Carter really hasn't lost many battles.

He started at La Salle College High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he was an all-state linebacker and graded as one of the top prospects from the region.

As a true freshman at Penn State, he bulldozed his way into a starting role by the end of the season. He racked up 56 tackles and led the team with 6.5 sacks.

This year, he notched his first career interception and has continued to be a leader on the defense.

One of the things that makes Carter an elite talent is his versatility, which he prides himself on.

"Whether that's Mike (linebacker), rushing off the edge, Will, Sam … I feel like wherever my coach needs me, I can play," Carter said.

Last weekend presented the first real adversity for the Nittany Lions in 2023, a disheartening loss to No. 3 Ohio State.

It was a test to Carter's never-lose mentality, but he said the setback has been a motivator for the team and that "nothing good comes easy."

"We can turn this into a good thing for us. I think that we can learn from it and we can grow from it," Carter said. "If we really want to be great, we can't let this hold us back."

Like his Linebacker U predecessors, Carter's strongest motivator is himself. To avoid that dreaded loss — be it chess, football or anything else — he just wants to get better each and every day.

Continue reading here:

Seth Engle



Engle

What to watch for: After a disappointing loss to Ohio State, Penn State will return to the win column against Indiana. Don't let the final score decieve you, the Nittany Lions aren't likely to figure out their offensive question marks on Saturday. Defense will once again lead the victory.

Score: Penn State 41, Indiana 0

Zach Allen



Allen

What to watch for: Penn State needs to get back in the win column, and it will against Indiana. The Nittany Lion's offense hasn't been explosive, so this week will be another week seeing if that will change. Penn State's defense has been solid all season, and it proved that once again against Ohio State.

Score: Penn State 44, Indiana 6

Joel Haas



Haas

What to watch for: Penn State will get right with a dominant victory over Indiana. Following a loss to Ohio State, the Nittany Lions are primed for a much more manageable opponent this weekend. The biggest mismatch on the field will be Penn State's defense against the Hoosier's offense, as an immovable force meets an extremely stoppable object.

Score: Penn State 42, Indiana 3

Sam Woloson



Woloson

What to watch for: Penn State will dominate thanks to its defense, which is going to be impossible for Indiana's struggling offense to break down. I don't have much confidence in the Nittany Lion offense, so it'll be relatively low-scoring, but never truly close.

Score: Penn State 38, Indiana 7

Guest Picker: AJ Piazza



Piazza

What to watch for: I expect the Penn State offense to bounce back against an average Indiana team. This is not a game Penn State should sleep on, though. This should be a dominant game for the Nittany Lions, and they should get an easy win.

Score: Penn State 49, Indiana 7

Gesicki griddies to victory

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While Penn State suffered its first loss of the season against Ohio State on Saturday, several former Nittany Lions fared better with their respective NFL teams.

Across the league, Penn Staters were putting up numbers and helping their teams get into the win column. Here are the most notable performances from the weekend.



Wilfredo Lee/AP file photo

Tight end Mike Gesicki hits the griddy after scoring a touchdown with the Miami Dolphins. Gesicki signed with the New England Patriots this offseason and scored the game-winning touchdown against the Buffalo Bills.

Saquon Barkley, running back, New York Giants

Former Penn State great Saquon Barkley posted another strong performance on Sunday, including over 100 yards of total offense.

Barkley missed three games with the Giants after suffering an ankle injury in Week 2 against the Arizona Cardinals but has bounced back with a pair of strong performances.

After rushing for 93 yards last week, Barkley followed it up with 77 more against the Washington Commanders, adding 41 yards and a touchdown through the air.

With the win, New York secured its second win of the season and moved to 2-5 on the year, but still sit in last place in the NFC East.

Jaquan Brisker, safety, Chicago Bears

In his second professional season, Jaquan Brisker has been having a solid season with the struggling Chicago Bears.

On Sunday, Brisker posted a season-high 10 tackles, nine of them solo, both numbers best on the team.

On the season, he claims 45 total tackles, good for third-most of any Chicago defender, and he ranks tied for second with three passes defended.

Brisker helped the Bears secure a second win, defeating the Raiders 30-12 and limiting quarterbacks Brian Hoyer and Aidan O'Connell to a combined 27-for-45 for 196 yards and three interceptions.

Jahan Dotson, wide receiver, Washington Commanders

Jahan Dotson hasn't been able to replicate the success he enjoyed in his rookie campaign last year but took a step in the right direction on Sunday.

Dotson recorded five receptions for 43 yards, a season-high, as Washington fell to the Giants.

The Commanders dropped to 3-4 on the year, but the former first-round pick looked to find his stride with the second half of the season approaching.

Mike Gesicki, tight end, New England Patriots

While his numbers weren't eye-popping, Mike Gesicki made his mark on the game with a late touchdown to take a lead against the Buffalo Bills.

Gesicki's one-yard reception with 12 seconds remaining helped the Patriots secure their second win of the season, upsetting the Bills.

The former second-round pick showed that quality is more important than quantity, as it was just his second catch of the day. The snag marked Gesicki's first touchdown of the season and helped New England improve to 2-5 while dropping Buffalo to 4-3.

Chris Godwin, wide receiver, Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Chris Godwin continued to be a reliable option in the passing game for Baker Mayfield and the Bucs, hauling in six catches for 66 yards in a narrow 16-13 loss to the Atlanta Falcons.

Godwin is now just short of 400 yards on the season but is still seeking his first touchdown of the campaign through six contests.

Tampa Bay fell to 3-3 on the year but still holds the second position in the NFC South.

Odafe Oweh, linebacker, Baltimore Ravens

Odafe Oweh made just his second appearance of the season after missing time due to an ankle injury but didn't miss a beat in his return.

The former Nittany Lion recorded three tackles against the Detroit Lions, including a sack and forced fumble.

Oweh and the Ravens dominated the Detroit Lions 38-6 in a statement game, improving to 5-2 on the year and taking control of the AFC North.

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Putting the pass in the past

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State entered its matchup against Ohio State boasting one of the nation's top offenses in terms of productivity, scoring the sixth most points in the country per game through six weeks.

That momentum came to a crashing halt against the Buckeyes, as the Nittany Lions produced only 12 points and struggled mightily through the air, concluding an undefeated start to the 2023 season.

"You see plays, you might think it's on the quarterback or on the wide receivers when sometimes it's really just miscommunication on one of those levels," tight end Tyler Warren said Wednesday. "Everybody being on the same page is a big part of it because a lot of it's just timing and stuff like that, so we'll keep working on that."

The passing game had been questionable at other points throughout the season, but it wasn't until the matchup against a talented Ohio State defense that those troubles were fully exposed. On Wednesday, James Franklin said that Penn State was "behind in the passing game," compared to expectations.

There are several reasons for the passing problems, but Franklin specifically mentioned receiver Harrison Wallace III's early-season injury and transfer additions transitioning "a little bit slower than we had hoped."

Quarterback Drew Allar finished just 18-for-42 last Saturday, as the team experienced the



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Penn State quarterback Drew Allar walks into the locker room in Ohio Stadium after a 20-12 loss to Ohio State. Allar completed a season-low 42.9% of his passes in his first loss as a starter.

sting of defeat for the first time all year.

"I mean, obviously it sucks to lose. It's not fun to lose at all," Allar said postgame. "If we attack each week and don't lose faith in each other, we can still be in the position we want to be at the end of the year. We just got to control what we can control and not worry about all the outside noise and other things."

The offense posted season lows in points and yards, including a historically low third-down conversion percentage against the Buckeyes. Following the loss, Franklin said the team spent the rest of the weekend watching film and had "tough conversations, a lot of transparency, a lot of honesty" and "really good discussion from the entire staff."

"And that is hard to hear sometimes, but it's also needed so it was a challenging night."

Franklin has always preached the 1-0 mentality during his time in Happy Valley, isolating each week from the others and focusing solely on the next opponent. But sometimes cleansing the memory of the previous week can be a difficult task, especially games like last Saturday's against Ohio State.

While Penn State hopes to leave the past behind it and turn its focus to the impending clash against Indiana, it's still attempting to grow from its failures against the Buckeyes.

"The best way to move on is to focus on the next opponent and learn from it, which we did on Saturday night, which we did all day Sunday. But then it's time to move on to the next opponent," Franklin said. "Learn the lessons from the game, make the corrections and then pour all of our energy into finding a way to get a win against Indiana."

Penn State suffered just two losses in 2022, 41-17 to Michigan and 44-31 to Ohio State two weeks later. But after each occasion, the Nittany Lions responded with resounding victories, 45-17 over Minnesota and 45-14 over Indiana.

This season, Penn State will once again follow up the Buckeyes with a matchup against the Hoosiers. The team will look to replicate its bounce-back success of a season ago, rebounding quickly from its most recent loss.

"Every loss you have in any sport, it's hard with the amount of time you put in so it's really just being able to use it in a good way, find a positive way to take out of it, not letting it control you or letting the loss turn into two losses," Warren said.

For Franklin, the loss serves as a reminder of the team's mortality, and an opportunity for added motivation moving forward.

"Overall, I've been pleased with how the guys handled this, but we got to go take our frustrations out on this next opponent," Franklin said.

Looking ahead, Penn State opens as a heavy favorite against Indiana and will look to not only achieve the success of the first six weeks, but surpass it with new knowledge taken from the mistakes of the loss.

"We have to really be critical of this film and just really learn from it. And you know, not let this happen again," Allar said. "We can't let the past affect the future."

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'Obviously it wasn't effective'

James Franklin addresses Penn State's poor execution, offensive woes against Ohio State

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State had the opportunity to extend a drive past midfield with just over a minute remaining in the first quarter. In most scenarios, a 3rd-and-1 rush would appear to be the logical play call for an offense that had run well and thrown poorly to that point.

Instead, James Franklin opted for a pass from quarterback Drew Allar, who found his first read, KeAndre Lambert-Smith, open across the middle of the field, but threw it behind him. The play initiated and epitomized a blunderous outing by Franklin and offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich in the Nittany Lions' 20-12 loss at Ohio State on Saturday.

Days of a little sleep have passed since the loss — Penn State's seventh straight against the Buckeyes — and Franklin has found the time to look back on the game film. His personal assessment of the play calling?

"Obviously it wasn't effective, right? I mean, that question is fairly easy to answer," Franklin said on Tuesday.

It likely didn't take a film evaluation for Franklin to come to his conclusion. The Nittany Lions converted just 1-of-16 3rd-down attempts — the worst percentage with a minimum of 15 snaps by any AP-ranked team in a game over the last 10 seasons, per ESPN Stats & Info.

Penn State had shown offensive weaknesses in its first six games, but due to the ability to convert in short-yardage situations, was often bailed out by either quarterback sneaks or quick rushes up the middle.

"I thought our identity was staying on schedule … and then either converting on 3rd downs or going for it on 4th-down situations," Franklin said. "I felt like that had been our identity for the season."

The Nittany Lions were 8-for-10 on 3rd or 4th-down attempts against UMass two weeks ago, and were perfect on four 4th-down conversions when they faced an Iowa defense that's currently among the nation's best.

Converting on short-yardage opportunities was Penn State's identity through the first half of the season, but a combination of play calling and on-field failures on 1st and 2nd downs kept the Nittany Lions from getting many chances at Ohio State.

And on the rare occasion of a 3rd and short, the coaching staff scrapped a run game that was working early and opted for the pass, which Franklin insisted wasn't the problem.

"When I went back and actually looked at the numbers, that was not our issue," Franklin said. "It was not our run-pass ratio."

Running back Nick Singleton took consecutive rushes for a combined 36 yards on Penn State's third drive of the game. He took just seven more as Allar attempted 42 passes, completing just 18 of them for 191 yards.

On three 3-and-1 attempts, Penn State passed each time, further contributing to an abysmal offensive performance.

"Obviously, the story of the game was third down, which impacted a lot of other things on the offensive side of the ball," Franklin said.

When put in must-pass situations, the problem lied primarily on the inability of a Nittany Lion receiving corps that struggled to create any separation on a Buckeye secondary down its top cornerback.

It was the same trouble Penn State had faced against weaker opponents in its first six games — a lack of explosiveness from a group of wideouts searching for someone other than KeAndre Lambert-Smith and Harrsion Wallace III to step up.

"We've got a group of guys that I think are all competing, but no one's separating themselves from the group," Franklin said.

The clock is ticking on the Nittany Lions to figure it out offensively before facing Michigan at home on Nov. 11.

"We got to move on and learn from it and get back to stacking days and finding ways to get wins," Franklin said, "because I also believe that we got to make sure that this loss doesn't get us twice, which I think has happened in the past."

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Independently published by students at Penn State

DAILY COLLEGIAN

Vol. 124, No. 10 Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 psucollegian.com

Cuisine from France

French chef Stéphane Gawlowicz brings experience, flavor to Pollock Dining Commons

By James Engel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



James Engel/Collegian

French chef Stéphane Gawlowicz reaches for crab legs at Pollock Dining Hall. One of his goals has been to help expand the palates of students to different cuisines.

Stéphane Gawlowicz grew up in "another world."

Coming of age in the streets of Paris' 12th arrondissement and the kitchen of his family's brasserie, he now calls State College and Pollock Dining Commons his home.

Gawlowicz, 53, is the managing chef at Pollock, previously serving in the same role at Redifer Commons. In this position, he's in charge of the large daily output of the dining hall as well as managing its cooks and other kitchen staff.

But between the neon lights of '80s Paris and the roars of contemporary Penn State, Gawlowicz has seen much of the world and cooked in many of its kitchens.

The chef grew up with a French mother and a Polish father. The two ran "L'espoir" — meaning "Hope" — a traditional restaurant in Paris, according to Gawlowicz.

During that "glorious" time, Gawlowicz said he remembers cigarette smoke in the air and sawdust on the floor. The chef said he even worked in one restaurant still powered by a coal oven.

"I was lucky to grow up in a household where food was important and always tasty," Gawlowicz said.

He went to culinary school at École de Paris des Métiers de la Table, he said, and soon found his first job at Hôtel Napoléon, located directly next to the Arc de Triomphe. He said he began in garde manger before making his way into the brigade-style hot kitchen at the five-star hotel.

But having spent his whole life in Paris, Gawlowicz said he soon sought more.

"I [could've] stayed and worked under the neon lights, or I could try something different and be out of the box and discover the world a little bit," he said. "I'm curious by nature. I loved my cooking job, but I wanted to discover other things as well."

This led him to Galway, a city near the sea in the west of Ireland.

There, Gawlowicz said he joined some new brigades and worked on his English, though he said it took him a while to get a handle on the Irish accent.

After a couple years among the Irish, the chef said he returned to Paris for sometime before he decided to set out for sea.

As a young man, Gawlowicz said he spent some summers away from Paris with family in Normandy, a region in northern France on the English Channel. He said he gained some experience on the water there, but later in life, he wanted to "learn about navigation and how to sail."

He soon found that opportunity in the Netherlands on board tall sailing ships. These vessels contained galley-style kitchens, where Gawlowicz cooked for the passengers and crew.

The chef mostly spent time in the seas of Europe and throughout the Atlantic Ocean. The Baltic, Mediterranean and Caribbean seas were regular locales. Sailing cruises to New England or the Chesapeake Bay were also favorites, he said.

"It's a demanding profession at sea. The water is very unstable as well," Gawlowicz said. "Everything is moving [and] banging."

As soon as possible, he and other kitchen staff would cast fishing lines overboard. He said they would reel in tuna, mahi-mahi and swordfish for fresh sushi and sashimi.

The chef said he tried to keep things fresh on board. Picking up ingredients at certain docks and cooking with ingredients in appropriate environments made for more than just challenges in the kitchen.

At sea, Gawlowicz said sailing near the coast offered more views, but the open ocean allowed him to see the constellations at night and sea creatures like whales, dolphins and turtles during the day.

He had the opportunity to round Cape Horn, at the very tip of South America, more than once.

At one point, he had the "privilege" to land on the tip of the Americas and meet the lighthouse keepers who resided there.

But the chef and his crewmates also went further south.

"According to the weather, it took us between two and three, sometimes four days, to reach Antarctica, where we cruised for several days or a week among the icebergs and the other nice creatures," Gawlowicz said.

After years on the water, however, the chef began his own restaurant back in his native land.

He opened "Le Pressoir" — meaning "The Press" — in Nantes, a city in the fertile Pays de la Loire of eastern France. The brasserie was a "traditional French restaurant with a touch of modernism," he said.

Nantes sits on the longest river in France, is less than an hour from the Atlantic and its countryside rarely frosts in the winter. This allowed Gawlowicz to have fresh produce, local game and both freshwater and saltwater fish.

"I liked the fact that I could work with the seasons," he said.

Ingredients were delivered or bought fresh each day. He said Le Pressoir only had a freezer big enough to hold ice cream for dessert.

Gawlowicz sold his restaurant in the early 2010s. Having spent some time in the United States, the chef said he came across a chef job in State College — a town he'd never heard of.

He applied and impressed a Penn State hiring committee that included Mark Kowalski, executive chef for Culinary Support Services.

Kowalski said he remembers Gawlowicz showing off his "passion for food" and some traditional French cooking during the hiring process.

That was a little more than a decade ago. Since, Gawlowicz said much has changed at Penn State.

"Food is like fashion, it's constantly evolving," Gawlowicz said. His use of fresh ingredients has remained important to him — especially those grown at Penn State's student farm.

Continue reading here:

Student realtors take on NYC

By Katelyn Garcia
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As most first-year students do, Isabella Giner and Katie Spencer hung photos on their dorm walls, but they also found a different common ground — realty.

The two then-freshmen agreed to obtain real estate licenses by the end of the year.

Giner, a fourth-year corporate innovation and entrepreneurship major, and Spencer, a fourth-year finance major, now cobroke under Giner Realty NYC.

"I started taking (an) online class to become a realtor over the summer. We got to talking and (Spencer) was interested as well," Giner said. "We decided to make it a goal by the end of our freshman year to get licensed and the following summer we started doing rental deals."

With a larger inventory and a fast-paced industry, Giner said New York City was ideal with the two- to three-month timeframe they had working summers in between college.

"Rentals are super quick, somebody needs an apartment and the deal can be done overnight and you can have your commission check two days later," Spencer said. "We live 30 minutes away from each other and then from the city another 30 minutes, so it's easy to commute. It's really fun — just the two of us."

From Katonah, New York, Giner said her father has a boutique brokerage in Westchester, as well as other family members in the industry.

"Instead of drawing pictures or playing dolls, I would always draw homes and write whatever number a 5-year-old knows," Giner said.

Giner would post photos around her house mimicking the physical listings she would see in front of houses.

"That's how I played when I was little," Giner said.

Spencer, an Irvington, New York, native, said she also had ties to realty as her father is a real estate lawyer, and she loved going to open houses with him.

"In seventh grade, everybody was on Instagram and I was clicking through Sotheby's," Spencer said. "Part of what I love about real estate is the physical space that you're in — I think it's really cool to see how different people live and how different people choose to decorate."

Once the pair earned their licenses, Giner said they used the time they had during the school year to gain clientele and traction on social media. It helped that Giner Realty NYC is also a branch of Giner's father's brokerage.

Since deals aren't required to be in person, Spencer said the two had the ability to be a liaison between clients and other agents.

"You don't make money until you close the deal in real estate, so (it was) a big incentive," Spencer said.

During summer 2022, the duo's first time working as realtors, Spencer said "nothing was going (their) way."

"We were like, 'Oh my God, the summer is almost over,' but in the last week of August before we went back to school, we closed two deals," Spencer said.

However, in classes, the two built the larger part of their client network — students graduating college.

"In Westchester where we're from, it's nice homes that families are buying and we just don't necessarily have that credibility," Spencer said. "We also really enjoy working with people who are our age. The relatability is there."

Giner said they expect their clients will one day be in a position to move into the Westchester area.

"We really try to nurture those clients because, first of all, we totally understand the position they're in financially," Giner said. "We look at it more or less as a friendship truly because we really do start to feel for these guys."

As young realtors, Spencer said brokers will assume the clients are representing Giner and Spencer, instead of the other way around.

"It's kind of nice being the underdogs," Giner said. "We switch the lens on it to make it more of our advantage and hone in on our niche a bit more."

To gain more experience, Giner said they were introduced to the NYC metropolitan team at Compass, a real estate broker, through an internship in 2022. They were given referrals, which she said was "more than generous."

"Real estate is like a muscle you need to coach," Spencer said. "Every single showing is different — there's a lot going on behind the scenes. You learn so much through conversations and watching (other agents) and how they do it."

Through interning at Compass, Giner and Spencer met Keith Jacoby, an agent who acted as their mentor.

"They're natural fits for the business," Jacoby said. "I think some of the key characteristics of a good agent is being responsive, being very client-centered and just having a real, solid head on their shoulders. They have all three, and they could really just run with their own clients early."

In his nearly 15 years in the real estate industry, Jacoby said he hadn't seen other students getting licensed and practicing prior to graduation like Giner and Spencer — placing them "ahead of the curve."

"They were really receptive to feedback, and they were thirsty to learn," Jacoby said. "That was just a great beginning that gave me the confidence to be able to give them more opportunities, which is kind of a natural flow in real estate."

Jacoby said he was able to convert deals to the duo early on, which was "tremendously helpful."

In two years, Giner and Spencer have had over $2 million in sales and rental volume, with their business growing over seven times from Year 1 to Year 2.

"Really all of my clients who worked with them and colleagues who interacted with them would always come back with feedback that was nothing but positive," Jacoby said. "They had done their homework on the property they were showing and just really easy to deal with."

Spencer said they had the opportunity to see an expensive listing recently with other agents, which allowed them to see beyond rentals.

"We know we can make it to this if we work hard enough and make the right mistakes, because obviously we're going to make mistakes," Spencer said.

Adam Krieger, a client of Giner and Spencer, got into contact with them through his sister while looking for an apartment in New York City.

"We didn't really know what we wanted at first going into the entire experience and they were super patient," Krieger said. "They were available at all hours of the night, which is important for us because we have crazy schedules."

Continue reading here:



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Student realtors Isabella Giner and Katie Spencer have racked up over $2 million in sales and rental volume in the past 3 years since starting Giner Realty NYC.

FINANCING THEIR FUTURES

By Elbia Vidal Castillo
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN



Graphic by Erin Hogge

Students are directly impacted by the increasing cost of tuition. As result of these price increases, students have found additional ways to earn more income and better manage their expenses.

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

With the increasing costs of tuition fees, many students who are financing their education have decided to change the ways they earn income by learning how to manage their expenses in different ways.

For Jonathan Smith, paying for his degree has been "challenging" since he's been working full time to save money for college during high school and his first year at Penn State Berks.

Smith, a third-year studying architectural engineering, said he worked over 55 hours each week during COVID-19, which allowed him to pay for three years of college while taking the maximum federal loans every year and working summer internships.

"My degree program is five years long, so I am always trying to find new ways to lower the cost of school," Smithsaid.

With the increase in tuition for Penn State, Smith said his tuition in Penn State's College of Engineering is being raised 15% over this and next school year.

"This has put immense strain on my financial situation, as the increase in tuition costs eats away all the money I had saved to spend on food and housing," Smith said.

For Smith, the biggest challenge of being a student covering his expenses is paying for housing and food because he can't take out loans to cover this.

"I am too far into my degree to leave school, so my only choice is to continue to pay higher tuition rates to graduate with a degree," Smith said.

His advice for students planning to pay for college by themselves is to think about taking a gap year between high school and college since, with that free time, students can find a full-time job and start saving for college.

He also recommends students take the time to calculate their loans and always calculate the costs of housing and food when planning their expenses.

Nadja Wood also recommends students count their money and check all future expenses to consider what jobs to take and how much money they'll be making during the semester.

"Housing can be hard, so I recommend setting a budget and working on something that won't stress you (out) that much," Wood, a second-year studying special education, said. "If you are stressed out, then you won't have the energy to study either."

Wood also said although college might be full of experiences that will require students to spend money, it's necessary to consider having a budget for social engagements as well.

"I try not to spend too much money, also not to eat out that much," Wood said. "We can still have fun, but it is important to control yourself."

Ben, who wished to remain anonymous, said although he accepted the FAFSA and scholarships, he's still paying for most of his education alone.

One of the strategies he uses to save money is working during the summers, preparing all of his meals and living with his uncles to save on rent.

Ben said the tuition increase didn't affect him much but he's still "pretty disappointed."

"I think the university could use significant decreases in the size of the administration," he said. "Tuition would be much lower."

Ben said his motivation to work and study comes from wanting to earn his own degree and get a job. He also said he tries to only stress over the things he "can't control" and "work is not in that category."

He said he recommends future students to not give up, continue to keep trying and remember that "the university is very much run like a business."

"This is the unfortunate structure of education at the moment," Ben said. "It's worth it in the end."

To email reporter: **ekv5127@psu.edu.**
Follow her on X **@elbia_vidal.**

SSAC 'spreads' message of sustainability

By Chet Irvin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's Student Sustainability Advisory Council is composed of 23 active undergraduate and graduate students all dedicated to the vision of a greener future for the school.

A group of environmental advocates who often work behind the scenes, the SSAC informs university administration about how to best implement sustainable policy on campus.

The student-run council meets annually with Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi and other key decision-makers in the Sustainability Institute and the Board of Trustees.

As recently as this year, SSAC convinced Penn State to abandon the use of styrofoam takeout boxes in its dining commons in favor of more reusable containers.

One of its biggest responsibilities involves brainstorming how Penn State can achieve 100% reduction in emissions by 2035 as part of the school's climate action plan.

Gabrielle Leach, a co-chair of SSAC, said she didn't know much about sustainability until she joined the council.

Leach, a fourth-year studying environmental resource management, applied to SSAC because she wanted to find the "intersection between helping others and helping the environment."

According to Leach, the experience of working with university stakeholders helped introduce her to a more holistic view of sustainability and its different aspects.

Leach works with co-chair Jacob Seiler to guide other council members through the process of proposal writing and presenting to senior leadership.

Seiler, a graduate student studying architectural engineering, said he believes sustainability can relate to every major or subject matter in some small way.

"I want to help spread the message that sustainability is for everybody," Leach said. "It's not just for engineers; it's not just for environmental majors."

SSAC member Ruby Chambers is currently writing a proposal to target greek life, which would affect the 17% of the student body who are involved by encouraging fraternities and sororities to create a dedicated sustainability chair.

"Our goal is to get knowledge across to people who aren't thinking about it," Chambers, a second-year studying geography, said.

In the future, Chambers said she wants to focus on student affairs on a larger scale because increasing attendance "is critical to spreading awareness and exposing more people to sustainability education."

"It's a privilege to represent the student body in this way because the platform that I have been given is so unique," she said.

Chambers also said she'd like to see more students from other, non-STEM majors join SSAC because she said the council can benefit from a "diversity of perspectives."

This year, Leach said the mission of SSAC is to "improve outreach and extension," with the establishment of a new chair to help amplify student voices.

The council is currently broken into three, broad working groups: zero waste, carbon neutrality and sustainable education.

Leach said the overlap between groups represents the "very nature of sustainability" with each issue potentially inviting "a million different solutions."

The council has recently branched out into providing education for extracurriculars around Penn State and collaborates with senior leadership at the university to carry out proposals, Seiler said.

As co-chairs of the SSAC, Leach and Seiler host biweekly council-wide meetings, which encourage members to "come together and discover overlap" while "helping one another through the process."

Leach said she hopes more people at Penn State will take the initiative to reduce waste in whatever way that they can because the university will "never reach (its) goals unless every individual is doing their part."

"There's a lot that Penn State has done," she said. "(But) there's a lot that is still needed."

Seiler said sustainability is something universities will always have room to improve upon.

"This isn't a problem that disappears once we reach our benchmark," he said. "Sustainability is being able to create something that can keep going."

According to Leach, action happens when the student body can band together and demand sustainable efforts be pursued.

"Don't feel discouraged or overwhelmed because you feel that your individual efforts won't be enough," Leach said. "They are — and I think we're proof of that."

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Courtesy of Jacob Seiler

Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi shakes the hand of one attendee during a PSU Student Sustainability Advisory Council event.



Jeremiah Hassel/Collegian file photo

Pablo Franco Almonte swipes an academic event dining pass at Findlay Commons in East Halls at Penn State's University Park in 2021.

Students manage meal plans

By Allison Mills
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

As a Penn State student, it can be difficult to budget money — especially with the endless food options around campus.

With five different dining halls and the HUB-Robeson Center, it can be hard to know where to spend meal plan money effectively.

These food options offer different discounts for students using the campus meal plan. While the dining commons offer 65% off the meal plan, markets and HUB restaurant chains don't.

Christopher Miller said he goes to Pollock Dining Commons "every day" because it has "the best food."

"If you go there, you can get the most food while spending the least amount of meal plan money," Miller, a first-year studying finance, said.

Miller said he has a Level 2 meal plan and is "already running out of money."

He said he used to go to Slim Chickens in the HUB but realized going to the dining hall is "way better."

Cody Blaine said he started with the "highest level" meal plan and is "already down to $200."

Blaine, a first-year studying communications, encourages other students to check how much money is left on their accounts.

"The biggest mistake I've made is going to get poke bowls every day — you'll end up going through your meal plan really fast," Blaine said.

Jesse Colchamiro said he thinks he's doing a decent job budgeting his dining dollars.

Colchamiro, a first-year studying wildlife and fisheries science, said his "favorite place" to get food is Pollock Commons because it has the "best food and the 65% discount."

Colchamiro said he encourages students to not spend their meal plan money on food options that don't provide the 65% discount.

For Matthew Colannino, he "loves Pollock."

"When Pollock has wings, it's the best day of the year," Colannino, a first-year studying accounting, said.

"I sometimes go to the Findlay Commons for breakfast, and I go to Flipps all the time," Colannino said. "Asia Kitchen at Pollock has the best dumplings, and it is so cheap with the meal plan — everyone should go there."

Nish Patel, who has the Level 3 meal plan, is "already down to less than $100."

Patel, a first-year studying information sciences and technology, said he enjoys eating at On A Roll in East, which offers a 65% discount on the campus meal plan.

Patel said he goes to places that offer discounts on the campus meal plan "once a day," but has started to DoorDash his food more.

"Do not go to the market if you don't have to," Patel said. "It's how I ran out so fast."

To conserve her meal plan, Kendall Mattson said she tries to "limit" the amount of money she spends at dining places in the HUB and only eat at places that give her a "considerable discount" with the meal plan.

Mattson, a first-year in the division of undergraduate studies, said she goes to the dining halls daily.

She said her favorite place to eat on campus is Redifer City Grill because she loves its fries and chicken sandwiches.

However, Mattson warned students to monitor how much they spend.

"(Beware of) how much you can spend per day for the rest of the semester."

Dancing to the music

By Ria Tambe
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Raw Aesthetic Movements organization at Penn State is a hip-hop dance club that hosts workshops and attends a variety of external events.

Treasurer Carson Pedaci said he joined the RAM Squad in the spring of his second year.

"We have no auditions. All skill levels are welcome, and you can come to as many or as few practices as you want," Pedaci, a third-year studying data science, said. "With RAM, you get the experience you make out of it."

Throughout the week, members can expect to participate in a workshop, according to the social media chair, Nat Cappetta.

Evan Katucki, the secretary of RAM, said members also participate in dance circles called "ciphers" every other week.

"Usually, one person is dancing at a time, and everybody else is supporting them," Katucki, a fourth-year studying biomedical engineering and psychology, said.

Katucki said dancing in front of strangers, friends and sometimes family is a "tough and emotional experience." But after the ciphers, everyone always leaves with a smile on their face.



Chris Eutsler/The Daily Collegian

One of the members of the dance team RAM Squad dances in front of students at the PRCC pep rally inside of HUB-Robeson Center on Oct. 12.

Cappetta, a second-year studying aerospace engineering, said an instructor, Kozmo, also comes in for workshops and teaches the members "breaking."

With over 16 years of ballet experience, Cappetta said the club is a "freeing" experience, regardless of what people "come to the club with."

"While I do love ballet, it's so enjoyable to be able to do anything I want and express myself in any way," Capetta said. "It's really given me a place to be myself."

Cappetta said she was the only woman in the club last year.

"It's really exciting … that we have gotten so many more women to join, especially those who are interested in breaking," Cappetta said.

Not only does Cappetta dance in RAM, she also researches new battles and workshops for RAM members to participate in.

Currently, Capetta said she's working on doing a workshop in Philadelphia with Penn State's Opulence.

With plenty of RAM events coming up, Cappetta said it's "exciting" to see what the squad is doing next.

Some of the big events that RAM has to offer are "New Cubz" and "Rhythm Spotlight." They also performed at this past weekend's THON 5K. According to Pedaci, "New Cubz" is an inhouse two-versus-two battle of all styles.

"It's a comfortable setting for you to take what you learned in our workshops and our freestyles," Pedaci said.

Continue reading here:

Students reveal go-to podcasts

By Ava Herbst
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Over the last decade, the number of people regularly listening to podcasts has increased — the same can be said for Penn State students.

For Taia Falbo, the podcast she currently listens to is "New Heights" hosted by Jason and Travis Kelce, NFL football players and brothers. Falbo, a second-year studying health policy administration, said the podcast content ranges from football to guest appearances.

"There's something on it for everyone," Falbo said.

Frank Gallagher said he also found "New Heights" entertaining, especially because he's a football fan, and the Kelce brothers will occasionally host other NFL players as guests. Gallagher, a first-year studying broadcast journalism, said the humor has kept him engaged.

"(Jason and Travis Kelce) make me laugh, and the people that they bring on usually have that same energy," Gallagher said.

Other students listen to podcasts they find relevant to life in college. Megan Mattfeld said the podcast she's listening to is "Hot Mess" hosted by TikTok star Alix Earle. Earle's descriptions of her own college experiences resonated with Mattfeld, a third-year studying marketing.

"She's so relatable, honest and open," Mattfeld said.

Mattfeld explained the content would be of interest for anyone who's looking to laugh and have a "down-to-earth" listening experience.

Harrison Mulkey has two favorite podcasts at the moment. When looking to be entertained, Mulkey, a fourth-year studying management information systems, said he enjoys "TMG Studios" hosted by YouTubers Cody Ko and Noel Miller.

"I can recommend it to anyone," Mulkey said.

When looking to be inspired, Mulkey said he tunes to "Mentors for Military Podcast" hosted by Robert Gowin, who interviews people in the military.

"I watch it when I'm in the mood to better myself," Mulkey said.

For Femi Adejolu, the podcast "ShxtsNGigs" hosted by James Duncan and Fuhad Dawodu, is both uplifting and relatable. Adejolu, a first-year studying premedicine, said he related to the hosts' life experiences because they're from the United Kingdom.

"(James and Fuhad) put a positive spin on what they've been through," Adejolu said.

Adejolu explained he related to Fuhad more because of their similar backgrounds, as they're both Nigerian.

"I can kind of understand what he's going through," Adejolu said.

Continue reading over:


Ashley Landis/AP file photo

Taylor Swift performs during the opener of the Eras Tour on March 17 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Celebrating '1989 (Taylor's Version)'

By Cearra O'Hern
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

You can hear it in the silence. You can feel it on the way home.

"1989 (Taylor's Version)" is almost here.

Taylor Swift releases her fourth re-recorded album this Friday. I can't wait to revisit Swift's first full plunge into peppy pop pieces.

In my "Wildest Dreams," I'm dancing to "1989 (Taylor's Version)" on a rooftop overlooking The Big Apple. Instead, I'm listening to the release from the comforts of my State College sofa.

But I'm not the only one wishing for bright lights and villages aglow. This blog is for my fellow State College Swifties.

Here are 1989 methods to prepare for the release of Swift's fourth re-recorded album.

Just kidding. That was just a lighthearted joke.

Here are five State College-centric ways to celebrate the release of "1989 (Taylor's Version)."

Stream "Wildest Dreams (Taylor's Version)" and "This Love (Taylor's Version)"

Oh, how she spoils Swifties.

Swift released two tracks from "1989 (Taylor's Version)" before its complete release. "Wildest Dreams (Taylor's Version)" arrived in September 2021, and "This Love (Taylor's Version)" came in May 2022.

After Swift released the two tunes, I itched for more of the record. The album anticipation made my blood run cold.

But the release date is near. I'll listen to "Wildest Dreams (Taylor's Version)" and "This Love (Taylor's Version)" on repeat to honor the snippets of the re-recorded album.

Despite my exaggerations, I would wait forever and ever for "1989 (Taylor's Version)." Luckily, this isn't the case.

Thank you, Taylor.

Bear blues and whites

I can't think of a better time to be a State College Swiftie.

Each of Swift's albums is assigned colors that capture its essence. The stolen version of "1989" was given a pale blue and white palette.

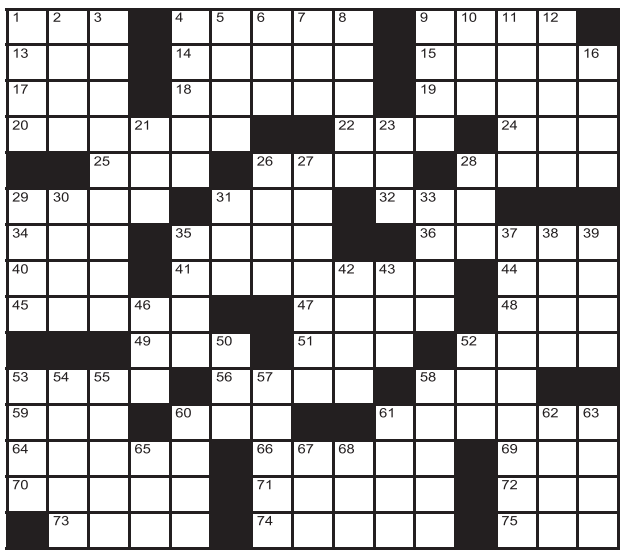
"1989 (Taylor's Version)" seems to stick to this palette, incorporating bright reds and beiges.

"1989 (Taylor's Version)" seems to stick to this palette, incorporating bright reds and beiges.

And who bears more blues and whites than Penn State students?

Continue reading here:

Crossword



Across
1 Puppy's bite
4 Springs
9 ___ accompli
13 Some germ cells
14 Pismire
15 Less young
17 Jazzman Adderley
18 Ammonia derivative
19 Track event
20 Liveliness
22 Little wriggler
24 Compass pt.
25 Cheerleader's cheer
26 Like raw silk
28 Cool drinks
29 Small liqueur glass
31 Critic ___ Louise Huxtable
32 Wood of the Rolling Stones
34 "Boola Boola" singer
35 Power system
36 Perspective
40 Lease
41 Tackle
44 Pacific ring
45 Pharaoh's land
47 Genesis skipper
48 Crew tool
49 Belief
51 Low island
52 Summer treat
53 Self-satisfied
56 Hebrew for "delight"
58 Hasty escape
59 Campaigner, for short
60 Ended a fast
61 Lucidity
64 Valuable fur
66 Full range
69 Baseball stat
70 Breviloquent
71 Cognizant
2 Use a Singer
73 Spanish appetizer
74 Passover feast
75 Sawbuck

Down
1 ___ the wiser
2 "Terrible" czar
3 Kind of suit
4 Vivien of "Gone with the Wind"
5 TV award
6 "What ___ to do?"
7 ___ Xing
8 Navigate
9 Garrison
10 Schooner's cargo
11 Went nowhere
12 Coquette
16 Some whiskeys
21 Unit of hope?
23 It's a wrap
26 Do magazine work
27 Poetic rhythm
28 Cape ___, Mass.
29 Cosmos star
30 Cassini of fashion
31 "A jealous mistress": Emerson
33 It may be minced
35 Heaters, to Capone
37 Most dreary
38 Thin
39 The Old Sod
42 Complain
43 Foot the bill
46 Kind of iron
50 Intersected
52 Hoosegow
53 Smudge
54 Bach composition
55 Extreme
57 Cézanne contemporary
8 "Ciao!"
60 Bailiwick
61 Without a doubt
62 Sloth's home
63 Sign of boredom
65 Sixth sense
67 Reverence
68 ___ cow disease

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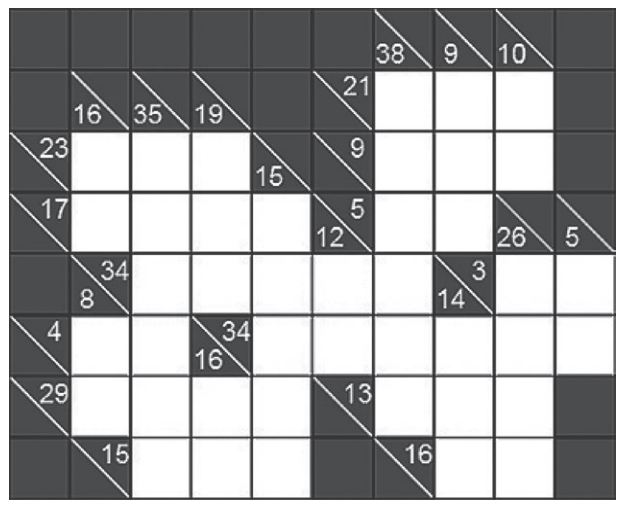
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You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit can only be used once in any sequence.

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College rankings don't mean everything

OUR VIEW

Prospective students must look beyond ranking reports when picking a college

Each year, institutions across the nation launch university rankings in the media and set a yearly standard for higher education.

Penn State, in particular, has found itself slipping in many of these rankings.

Forbes' "America's Top Colleges 2023" report scored Penn State as 408 out of 500 institutions. This set Penn State back 253 spots from where it landed in the 2021 ranking, and below almost all Pennsylvania schools, according to The Centre Daily Times.

This year, Penn State also ranked lower in college free speech and for academics on the football team in the Big Ten.

On the forefront, these rankings don't represent the best of the Blue and White — fueling community feedback alongside confusion.

Although university rankings can serve as a resource for prospective students and families, they shouldn't be the sole contributor to commitment decisions.

Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers said "there is no single, agreed-upon set of metrics used by the different ranking organizations."

To compare rankings would be unhelpful, as the metrics being factored into each list are not always aligned, even if two lists appear to measure the same variable.

The 2024 Times Higher Education World University Rankings placed Penn State No. 122 among 1,904 global institutions.

Forbes, which based its list on several metrics including return on investment and graduation rate, still left out many factors that are represented in other rankings — such as diversity.

Penn State's 24-campus model may have also swayed the Forbes ranking, according to Powers. She said some universities with satellite campuses may only submit data from a main campus location, producing "different results."

Similarly, the 2023 College Free Speech rankings listed Penn State as "below average," although under the "administrative support" category, Penn State clocked in at number nine — taking student's perceptions of the free speech environment into consideration.

No singular school holds the same ranking across all of these measures, and that is what makes these universities unique and best fit for a diverse body of students.

This also makes it all the more challenging for prospective students to use rankings as a source of decision making — something people argue is important when selecting a college.

In a Time Magazine piece, Adam Nguyen, who previously reviewed applications for Columbia University, said rankings prove important in the case of graduate school — as they will be evaluated by admissions and employers.

Although these rankings pull from quantitative measures, it's important to acknowledge the qualitative aspects of universities — such as culture, history and recognition.

Despite Nguyen's claims, he did argue the ranking system is "broken."

Multiple components construct a "good" school. What is defined as a "good" is also subjective to the student.

What universities provide for students is what should be evaluated. Resources, experiences and culture are crucial to the entire university picture.

Penn State welcomes a large batch of students from all backgrounds — stretching beyond the state and fostering culture for a diverse community. Despite this, not every student will prefer Penn State.

In actuality, college rankings don't hold great value. The first and last place colleges may get some attention, but the colleges sandwiched in the middle shouldn't be compared on a similar scale.

In order to fully understand Penn State's picture, prospects must look beyond the numerical reports and weigh every aspect of what a university can offer.



Cartoons by Nathan Campbell

MY VIEW | GRACIE CARELLA

Educating one another



Carella

Another week, another New York Times article that sparks a fire in me, and later prompts a phone call with my mother.

Now, more than halfway through the fall semester, students have been able to begin identifying what study strategies, locations, classes and professor styles suit them best. However, it still feels that education remains monotone.

I've always been a question-asker. I love asking questions, learning in parallel to main ideas and doing my own research outside of the classroom. That's why I also enjoy reading the newspaper so much, because everyone's lenses and thoughts are spread out in front of me to dissect and learn from, but more importantly, for me to become inspired from.

In a guest article written by Adam Grant, an organizational psychologist at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, he explains the importance of unlocking every student's potential, no matter what it takes.

"Every child has hidden potential. It's easy to spot the ones who are already sparkling, but many students are uncut gems," he quotes at the beginning of his essay.

While many Penn State professors are also Penn State alumni, they know the value of the school, the importance of education and the power that knowledge holds. This is why they dedicate themselves to the grounds that fueled them and hope to contribute to the nurturing of the next generations.

Without many of these alumni professors or guest professors, we would not be the university that we are.

> "Professors, paraprofessionals, teaching assistants or lab instructors are not the only people who can spread knowledge."
> **Gracie Carella**

Professors, paraprofessionals, teaching assistants or lab instructors are not the only people who can spread knowledge. Anyone can, and I bet if you took a second to think about it, you could name at least 10 people who have taught you something in the past week.

I'll go first and name a few people to get the vibes flowing.

My father, an aerospace engineer who has designed and worked hundreds of aeronautical projects with millions, even billions of dollars, taught as a student during his time at Stanford University, in the sunny and shiny Stanford, California.

He used to tell me stories of his bike rides to class, one of his roommates, and he loves showing off his handwritten theoretical aerodynamics and structural dynamics solution books that he used back in the day.

My mother, prior to my arrival in her life, was a personal secretary for one of the heads of Fidelity Investments. She taught me how to type using all of my fingers, how to use a stapler (safely) and how to sign my name in cursive. (This skill has not stuck. I just draw a squiggly line and hope the vendor accepts it).

My brother teaches me how to use a lot of technology, and also helps me with my math and physics homework. My grandfather, Sal, taught me how to dance at all of the family weddings, and we have life talks during my trips back home where he flips through old photo albums, plays his favorite songs on his old stereo and tells me that "the man who ends up with you is in for the best trip of his life." My little cousins teach me the names of their favorite cartoon characters, and the "right" way to have a tea party.

Regardless of who you are, you have something to teach, as well as an infinite amount of potential to change the lives of others, and to inspire everyone around you. Whether you are a Penn State student, alumni, parent, sibling, aunt, uncle or grandpa (hey, Gramps), you have something to offer to those who share the space with you.

Let's take turns inspiring one another, educating on a personal level and leaving our world a better place than we found it.

Gracie Carella is a junior majoring in premedicine and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at **gxc5354@psu.edu** or follow her on X at **@GracieCarella**.

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

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'LET THE DOG LOOSE'

Puff Johnson and D'Marco Dunn bring a winning experience to Penn State

By Joe Tuman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Penn State's roster isn't exactly littered with continuity.

The 2023-24 season will see the Nittany Lions welcome Mike Rhoades' coaching staff and 10 new players to Happy Valley after an offseason overhaul.

Even with so many fresh faces, these players aren't all complete strangers. Ace Baldwin Jr. and Nick Kern Jr. were teammates at VCU, and they'll bring an advanced knowledge of Rhoades' system to the lineup.

However, it's the established chemistry of the two former Tar Heels who will impact Penn State's locker room.

Senior forward Puff Johnson and junior guard D'Marco Dunn each transferred from North Carolina in the offseason and are set to compete for larger workloads at their new school.

While their roles weren't always consistent when wearing Carolina blue, Mike Rhoades said he's urged both players to "let it out" and showcase their skills on the court this season.

"Those experiences helped them, but it also created an edge for them," Rhoades said. "The roles they had at (North Carolina) are different than the roles they're going to have here."

An uptick in Johnson and Dunn's minutes is widely expected following their departure from the blueblood program, but they'll also be asked to do more off the court as well.

This could especially ring true for Johnson, who Rhoades said was voted team captain by his peers.

Entering his fourth year, the forward has already seen his fair share of big games across a pair of March Madness runs. Johnson said he can draw from that history to help lead his teammates.

"Sharing the type of game experience I have I feel will be good for this team," Johnson said. "Knowing we have to show up every single day and that no games are promised is probably the biggest thing I can stress."

Earlier this year, the Tar Heels certainly learned nothing is promised. After reaching the NCAA Championship game in 2022, they failed to build off of that momentum and missed the tournament entirely last season.

Witnessing these highs and lows gives Johnson an added perspective on what it takes to win at the collegiate level. Yet, that's only part of what's helped him earn the respect of his Penn State teammates.

Rhoades said his personality is one that can uplift the locker room.

"He's a high-level communicator, he has great positivity and confidence," Rhoades said. "He's been a great leader for us. I'm really excited he's here."

In addition to his coach, Johnson has also expressed excitement to be in Happy Valley. After transferring, the Moon Township, Pennsylvania, native is now just a few hours away from home.

He said the opportunity to move closer to his family, along with the chance to play for Rhoades, played a major part in his decision.

"I saw his reputation of being a winner, that was something I wanted to be a part of," Johnson said. "Being 2 ½ hours from my hometown is also special, I know a lot of people that go up here."

Johnson added that he recalled Rhoades recruiting his brother Cameron eight years earlier, noting how the interaction also played a part in his choice to play for him.

In a similar vein, Dunn also formed a relationship with Rhoades prior to eventually committing to North Carolina.

When the time came to reconvene ahead of transferring to Penn State, he said the potential to gain more on-court opportunities stuck out to him.

"Coach Rhoades recruited me in high school, so it's nothing new to him what I can do," Dunn said. "He just wants me to be free, just let the dog loose."



Jackson Ranger/Collegian

Guard D'Marco Dunn shot the ball during the Ball at East event. Dunn transferred from North Carolina earlier this year.

During Dunn's first two collegiate seasons, the dog was often stuck in the kennel. He played just 7.4 minutes per game and only eclipsed 10 points once across 50 contests.

With the Tar Heels, Dunn's biggest strength — his scoring — was mitigated.

With little time, he couldn't get in rhythm or consistently make plays; but, with the blue and white, things could be different.

Ranked the No. 49 recruit in his class by ESPN, Dunn made a name for himself as a dangerous scorer while attending Westover High School.

George Stackhouse, who coached him for those two seasons, said Dunn's offensive game "checked a lot of boxes as far as putting the ball in the basket."

"He'd score a lot of points and not take a lot of shots, just very efficient," Stackhouse said. "He made it look relatively easy — off screens, off the bounce and in transition."

Stackhouse's groups at Westover were formidable before Dunn arrived, as the coach had built a consistent winning program.

But the guard's arrival for his junior and senior seasons took the school to another level. Dunn helped Westover go 41-3 during his time there, quickly emerging as a leader.

Stackhouse said Dunn's quick integration to the lineup showed the kind of teammate he was on-and-off the court.

"They were drawn to him right from the beginning," Stackhouse said. "He fit right in like a glove, he worked hard, put the team first."

Dunn putting the team's needs ahead of his own could continue at Penn State.

Behind Baldwin Jr., there's no obvious facilitators on the roster. The junior said "having more of a playmaking role" is also something he's prioritized since joining the Nittany Lions.

Whether he's creating for others or receiving more chances to heat up himself, Dunn is positioned for the next step in his career.

He said having a teammate he's "been through battles" with like Johnson will further help him acclimate to his increasing on-court duties.

"He's just a good dude, it's easy to gel with him on the court," Dunn said. "It's kind of a comforting sense when you have someone who knows you already here."

Highlighting those type of connections will be paramount for Penn State this season.

Between Johnson and Dunn, the returning members of last year's Nittany Lions squad and the duo from VCU, there's plenty of winning experience and established chemistry already in place.

The key will be finding a way to blend it all together. Johnson said he knows this may take time, but his motivations and approach won't change regardless.

"Looking in, it's a lot different just because of the type of pressure we had last year compared to the expectations this team will have this year," Johnson said. "For me, it's the same because every single game I have, I'm not going to take for granted and go out there and give it my all."

Johnson, along with Dunn, will be able to give it their all more often than they were able to in Chapel Hill.

It's their mix of skills, effort level and leadership that has Rhoades feeling confident they're perfect fits for his system.

"We're all going to enjoy watching them play because they play so hard and they're aggressive," Rhoades said. "I think they fit me and fit what we're trying to build. They're two great kids."

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MY VIEW | WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NIL assists rising popularity



LYLE ALENSTEIN

The topic of whether college athletes should be paid was a national conversation for years.

Within recent years, the movement of NIL, which stands for Name, Image and Likeness, has allowed for college athletes to receive financial compensation. Players have the opportunity to be paid using their name through marketing an promotional campaigns.

NIL has changed the landscape of women's basketball. With more players using their name to receive personal benefits, the trajectory of the game has changed rapidly.

Anna Camden, former forward for Penn State, is a beneficiary to the NIL game. Camden has developed a following, as her social media presence nets her 278,300 followers on TikTok and 97,000 on Instagram.

During her time at Happy Valley, the influencer achieved deals like Urban Outfitters, a one-day basketball camp called "Camp Camden" and a podcast titled "Courtside with Camden."

Camden acquired a deal with Roots Natural Kitchen, in downtown State College, where she had a meal named after her in the "Camden Bowl." The former Lady Lion took her talents to Richmond for the upcoming season, but the Roots NIL deal is still holding true as her new college town has its own restaurant, letting Camden continue her partnership.

While the ex-Nittany Lion made her mark in Happy Valley by putting her image to good use for herself and the community, there are other female hoopers that are also changing the game.

At LSU, the Tigers hold the top-two spots for highest NIL values for female hoopers in Angel Reese and Flau'jae Johnson at 1.7 million and 1.1 million, respectively.

LSU Athletics and sponsors have invested heavily into the program, and it's making a difference on and off the court. The purple and gold is the defending NCAA champions but also have its players' NIL deals making an impact.

Reese started her NIL campaign with "The Angel C. Reese Foundation," where she uses her platform to provide equal opportunity for girls and underrepresented groups in sports, education and financial literacy.

Another player who has succeeded off of NIL is Caitlin Clark of Iowa. Clark holds the third-highest value for NIL with $753,000 and has garnered deals like State Farm, Bose Headphones and Nike.

Clark is one of the most electrifying athletes in the country. A season ago, the Hawkeye averaged 27 points, eight rebounds and eight assists per game.

The phenom turned heads with her play and drew comparisons to Steph Curry in her playstyle, often pulling up and connecting on deep 3-pointers. Her play led Iowa to winning the Big Ten Tournament.

Iowa and LSU clashed a season ago in the NCAA championship. With Reese and Clark being the headliners with their rising popularity, the matchup was bound to change the perspective on women's basketball.

The Tigers stomped the Hawkeyes 102-85, but there was a deeper result set for the future.

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Emily Rosio/Collegian file photo

Players cheered for their team during the Penn State women's basketball game against Ohio State at the Bryce Jordan Center in the 2022-23 season.



Ethan Feldman/Collegian

Defender Femi Awodesu goes for the ball during the men's soccer game against Michigan at Jeffery Field.

Senior Day stars shine

By Maggie Hardy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

MEN'S SOCCER

A windy fall day at Jeffrey Field called for a celebration. The blue and white honored its two captains Femi Awodesu and Peter Mangione for its annual Senior Night as the unit took on the Michigan Wolverines in its fifth-straight Big 10 matchup.

The seniors have been making their presence known all year long, but none more evident than this matchup, where both Mangione and Awodesu scored in the second straight home game, and helped contribute to Penn State's dominant 4-0 win.

Mangione's goal came in the 22nd minute after he fired a shot from the top of the box, beating Michigan's goaltender Isaiah Goldson in the upper right corner. His goal put the Nittany Lions up by two early in the first half.

When asked about his emotions on scoring during his senior night, Mangione said, "It's so special to me."

"It feels amazing to score. I honestly can't put it into words," Mangione said.

Mangione has a team-high eight goals on the season and also sits at the top of the conference. He's been a key piece for the blue and white's offense all season, scoring in his fourth consecutive game and tallying his 28th career goal.

Awodesu's goal came in the 68th minute off a penalty kick, beating a diving Goldson low and right. The senior defender scored his second goal of the season after scoring his first just two games prior against Northwestern and helped the blue and white pull away with a three-goal lead with a little over 20 minutes left.

"We train PKs all the time in training, so I was just like put it to one side and see what the keeper does," said Awodesu. "Slow run up and just see if the keeper's going to dive."

Awodesu's been a vital part of Penn State's dominant defensive core, contributing to the team's five shutouts and helping the Nittany Lions to third in the conference in goals allowed.

The seniors' impact doesn't just stop on the field but is felt all throughout the team.

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