

‘against 100 years of movie stereotypes’

Photo courtesy of Katalin Vermes

FINISHING THE STORY

Penn State doctoral candidate makes an unexpected debut in “All the Light We Cannot See”

By Margaret Day
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Aria Mia Loberti was sitting in Penn State’s White Course Apartments when she found out she landed the lead role in Netflix’s newly-released miniseries, “All the Light We Cannot See.”

Loberti plays Marie-Laure LeBlanc, a blind teenage girl living in Nazi-occupied France during World War II, who crosses paths with a young German soldier through an illegal radio broadcast.

Loberti booked the role from a global casting search for actors with blindness or low vision and had no prior acting or theater experience.

After landing the part, Loberti, a graduate fellow in communication arts and sciences and a doctoral candidate, took leave from Penn State.

The miniseries “All the Light We Cannot See,” based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book written by Anthony Doerr, premiered on Netflix on Nov. 2.

According to Loberti, it was her mother who passed the book on to her, after having read and “loved it” when it was published in 2014.

Loberti only read about 75% of it.

“I couldn’t read beyond that point because I was just so heartbroken that the story was going to come to an end and the characters, like real life, might not get their happy ending,” Loberti said.

The book traveled with Loberti from nightstand to nightstand as she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Is-

land with a triple major, spent the following year in London as a U.S.-U.K. Fulbright recipient and later came to Penn State to pursue a PhD.

“It always comes with me because I’m always like, ‘Someday, I’ll have the courage to have the conclusion to the story,’” Loberti said. “But, it just meant too much to end.”

Years later, Loberti said she heard about the casting call from a former teacher, who she hadn’t spoken with since she was about 11 years old, but originally wasn’t going to audition because she didn’t act.

After moving to State College, Loberti said she decided to audition for the role as a “little pick-me-up” after a bad week.

The “intense” audition process took about two weeks and ended with her receiving a phone call from director Shawn Levy telling her she got the part.

After her final round of auditions, Loberti said she thought they’d hire a famous actor.

With the help of her mom, she prepared a speech in advance of what she thought would be a rejection.

But she never gave that speech. “It happened two days later,” Loberti said. “I got on the call ... and Shawn said, ‘There are moments in our lives that our lives change, and acting is very moment-to-moment. Now, this is a moment where it’s not just your life changing, it’s you changing ... Congratulations.’”

That evening, Loberti finished the rest of the book.

For Loberti, the best part of production was “sort of being thrown in headfirst.”

Having never been on a movie set, Loberti said she thought it would be “the director and a lighting guy and a camera person.”

“It’s actually 300 people watching you do your job, and I was doing my job for the first time,” Loberti said. “I think my favorite part was just everyone rallying around me and being really kind.”

One person with whom Loberti worked closely was Joe Strechay, an associate producer: accessibility and blindness consultant.

Strechay has worked on a variety of sets such as Apple TV+’s “See” and Marvel’s “Daredevil.”

“Joe ... was absolutely amazing,” Loberti said. “He not only helped me with character prep and that authenticity, but he also would have conversations with people about [how] you can’t just grab someone and try to steer them.”

Strechay said he worked with the casting departments as they chose actors for both the child and adult versions of Marie-Laure and also reviewed and provided advice on the script.

“Aria is brilliant,” Strechay said. “She is a genius, such a quick study. ... This is what she was born to do — acting.”

In fact, Strechay said Loberti memorized the entirety of all four episodes, including others’ lines, and “no one does that.”

“I’ve worked with tons of big name actors, and I would say her performance in ‘All the Light

We Cannot See’ stands up with all those people,” Strechay said. “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Strechay said part of his job was to create accessibility for the production.

“So, when Nell and Aria, or anyone else with a disability shows up, the only thing they have to worry about is doing their job,” he said.

Strechay said he also assisted in ensuring “all the little details” come across on screen, such as the history of blindness and introducing white canes and other technology at the right time.

In addition to Loberti and her character, Marie-Laure, both Strechay and Nell Sutton also have varying levels and types of blindness.

Sutton, who was just 7 years old at the time of filming, plays the child version of Marie-Laure.

While filming, Sutton said she knew she could be herself.

“All I had to do was just say lines,” she said. “I felt my emotions; I felt Marie’s emotions at the times that she would’ve felt that.”

While on set, Sutton said she loved getting to meet other actors.

“I loved meeting Mark,” she said, referring to her co-star Mark Ruffalo, who played Marie-Laure’s father in the series and acted in each of Sutton’s scenes.

“He is so funny ... He accidentally, in one of the takes, he called me Nell instead of Marie,” Sutton said. “He was kind, too — he shared half of his cheese toastie with me.”

Throughout the miniseries, Sutton said she wants to help educate others who may have “never met a blind person in person before.”

Traditionally, Loberti said characters with blindness have largely been played by sighted people, and there has “never been a production that has cast authentically for this population, especially for a lead character (and) especially not something of this scope.”

Loberti said not hiring authentically is “the expectation.” Often, she continued, they’re “working against 100 years of movie stereotypes” because the population hasn’t been represented well.

“It does affect our lives because we have to work against what people expect,” Loberti said. “So when you’re out there trying to live your life, ... the world can really get in your way by assuming you can’t do anything.”

Strechay said the “migration of minority populations in media” is a “process” with four levels: non-representation, comical (where people are ridiculed), authority or regulatory (where characters are put in roles that bring authority to them) and full representation.

“There’s so many jobs that are just not filled by persons with disabilities,” Strechay said. “But the fact is that people who are blind or low vision are not getting ... roles. So, you got to start somewhere.”

For Strechay, the best part of the production was that it was based in reality, as historical fiction wasn’t something he had worked on before and getting to work on this project was “just a dream.”

Strechay said his hopes for the miniseries are that people “will see that an actor, who is blind or low vision, can carry a show, a major show or film.”

“I think we proved that,” Strechay said.

Loberti seconded Strechay’s statement.

“I hope that the industry will step forward and start to take seriously authentic storytelling for the disability community,” she said.

Loberti also booked another role on a production coming out in the spring and said she doesn’t “know what’s happening anymore to be totally honest” because her “wildest dreams” came true.

“I wish that we could live in a world where every kid who has a big dream, whatever it is ... can feel like they’re in a place where they can go live it,” Loberti said.

As she reflected on the experience, Loberti said sharing stories with each other is “the greatest power that we can have.”

“You never know what’s going to happen when you take a chance,” Loberti said. “I hope that more people will take big leaps and surprise themselves.”

To email reporter: m1m7227@psu.edu.
Follow her on X @ [maggie_dayy](#).



Courtesy of Atsushi Nishijima

Nell Sutton, who plays young Marie-Laure LeBlanc, stands with Mark Ruffalo on the set of “All the Light We Cannot See.”

AFSP connects students

By **Jadzia Santiago**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When Mia Nasser and a group of her friends noticed there wasn't a student-run resource for suicide prevention at Penn State, they decided to take action.

Now the president of the recently established American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at Penn State, Nasser, a second-year studying cybersecurity analytics and operations, said the club is working toward its goals.

According to Nasser, the organization is both a Penn State student organization and an official chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, a national organization. The club is advised by the area director of the eastern Pennsylvania chapter, Samantha Bruno.

Thus far, Nasser said Penn State's chapter has had two general body meetings, which she said aren't "heavy" but discussion- and education-based.

Nasser said the chapter brings in guest speakers to inform club members of different resources. The Penn State Chapter hosts its meetings biweekly on Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. The club also posts about its activities on its Instagram.

Additionally, Nasser said the chapter has multiple goals for the future, including raising funds for research, creating community and breaking stigma.

"We're all Penn State students,



Graphic by Alexander Ercolino

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) at Penn State was formed when its president, Mia Nasser, realized there is a place for this "safe space."

and we all want to feel included in the Penn State community, but it can be so hard when you feel like nobody else understands what you're going through," Nasser said. "I think it's so important to put it out there."

Zachary Peters said one event AFSP at Penn State is planning is its first Out of the Darkness Walks. These walks are hosted by the AFSP and aim to raise awareness and funds for all aspects of suicide prevention.

According to Peters, a second-year studying architectural engineering and the vice president of the Penn State chapter, the

organization is still planning its walk, which will possibly take place during the spring semester.

Peters also said the chapter is trying to raise \$5,000 from the walk.

"We're going to be donating that to charities that (support) people, funding and research," Peters said. "The main reason we're having the walk is to bring awareness to how people are struggling."

While chapter members aren't counselors, Peters said the chapter is a "safe place" where those impacted by suicide can connect with others and find resources

and where those passionate about mental health can "come and make a difference."

Isabella Tramontin said the chapter currently aims to build its membership and increase registration numbers for the upcoming Out of The Darkness Walk.

According to Tramontin, a second-year studying chemical engineering and the chapter's treasurer, the chapter currently has "close" to 50 members.

Tramontin said discussing suicide can be difficult because there's a "heavy stigma" surrounding it, but she thinks it's "worth it."

"You can't make a good impact and make change if you don't deal with these hard topics," Tramontin said. "If we are the ones that have to do it, so be it."

Bruno, a Penn State alumna, said discussing topics like suicide is "important" because "the less stigma that is associated with suicide and mental health, the more likely people are to get help."

As the chapter's AFSP adviser, Bruno said she serves as the executive board's "point of contact" at AFSP and "guide(s) them through the process" of planning events and programming.

According to Bruno, the AFSP wants to make sure it's "supporting the student population however is best."

"(College students) are under a lot of stress with classes and different activities, and everything that's falling on (their) shoulder(s)," Bruno said. "We want to make sure that we are dispersing our information so that people know there's help (and) there's hope."

For Bruno, she said community organizations such as AFSP at Penn State are "huge" for suicide prevention efforts.

"We are surrounded by our communities," Bruno said. "So if, as a community, we come together, and we say, 'This is not going to be stigmatized,' then that whole community is a safe space."

To email reporter: jas9280@psu.edu. Follow her on X at [@JadziaASantiago](https://twitter.com/JadziaASantiago).

Accessing mental health resources

By **Vida Lashgari**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Navigating a foreign country independently can be an isolating and overwhelming journey. With over 11,000 international students, faculty and scholars currently attending Penn State, it's important for mental health resources to be available to them.

Although Penn State has implemented mental health resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services, there's a cultural divide that may contribute to whether international students feel comfortable seeking help.

Mia Ramírez said she had a hard time adjusting when she moved from Peru to State College.

"I don't have a support system here. It was very hard for me because I had to figure out coping skills on my own," Ramírez, a second-year studying economics and political science, said.

Ramírez said she once cried in the middle of her class in the front row and her professor looked at her and "kept on doing the class."

"I turned to a therapist that's from my country and (we had) two sessions per week on Zoom. I have a roommate who is also an immigrant, and was doing the exact same thing — having her therapy from home," Ramírez said.

According to CAPS, its mission is to "support students' mental health and well-being as they pursue their academic and career goals. Essential to this mission is fostering a welcoming and affirming environment that honors diversity and values individual and cultural differences."

Ramírez said she believes it's necessary to create a more effective CAPS program for international students.

"I think they need to make the CAPS department more diverse and I think they need to make the professor more aware of the immigrant experience in general," Ramírez said.

Another international student, Tala AlHejili, who is from Saudi Arabia, said she thinks the "only issue is scheduling."

"They're having a lot to do and they don't have many counseling appointments regularly," AlHejili, a third-year studying international politics, said.

Cristóbal Díaz, who moved to Penn State from Peru, said he thinks education and awareness of mental health resources at the university could be a positive step forward.

"If you say there's a seminar about mental health, people are probably not going to show up," Díaz, a first-year studying management, said. "I feel like if it's more of a fun environment and you plug in information for students, they might be more open to receiving it."

Ramírez, AlHejili and Díaz said cultural differences are some of the reasons why international students are hesitant to seek support.

Instead, Díaz said he feels more comfortable talking about his mental health to his "family and friends."

"It's not because we don't want to access (mental health resources) but because we don't feel like they would understand," Ramírez said.

For some international students, like Ramírez, university acknowledgment of how cultural experiences may differ from the average American student would be helpful in shifting approaches to mental health support.

"Some students aren't able to go back to their homes during winter break for whatever reason," AlHejili said. "They need to make them feel like 'we can see you and we can see that you're here,' and it can be as easy as an email sent out to students during this time."



James Engel/Collegian

According to the head of security for the Hotel State College, The Basement Nightspot averages three ID confiscations on a weekend night.

Are bars strict with fake IDs?

By **Daniela White**
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

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

Unlike some universities, Penn State's downtown bar scene isn't one where fake IDs are easily used.

Head of security for Hotel State College Zac Clark said The Basement Nightspot averages three ID confiscations on a typical Friday or Saturday night.

But for all of the properties within Hotel State College, including Chumley's, Bill Pickle's Tap Room, The Corner Room, Allen Street Grill, Zeno's Pub and The Basement, the amount of ID confiscations change from day to day.

According to Clark, the establishments catch an estimated six IDs on an average Friday.

Still, when new students came at the beginning of the academic year, Hotel State College & Co. establishments discovered 70 fake IDs.

"Generally there's a lot more in the beginning of the semester," Clark said. "It slows down between people getting caught with their fake IDs and people turning 21 as the year goes on."

Though the bouncers don't confiscate the IDs, they still decide if the IDs are fake and call State College police. According to Clark, in the last academic school year, at least 150 IDs were discovered to be fake.

Clark said he oversees "card training" and ensures everything runs smoothly and that Hotel State College & Co. es-

tablishments are "adhering to local code and any appropriate and applicable (liquor control) regulations."

Downtown State College differs from other college campuses because of how safe the town and university is, Clark said.

"It's not stricter — there are other issues to worry about," he said. "Because of that, the law enforcement locally has less things to worry about. So they worry about things they can do. There's just a lack of other peripheral things to worry about."

Lauren, who wishes to remain anonymous, tried to use her sister's ID at the start of the semester, but had it confiscated at The Shandygaff. She said it was her first time going to that specific bar when the ID was taken from her.

"Me and my sister look alike, but you could probably obviously tell it's not me," Lauren said. "He kind of just knew it wasn't me, and he started asking a bunch of questions."

Although Lauren said she knew State College bars can be "strict," she still decided to use her sister's ID because she wanted to be able to have fun with her 21-year-old friends at the bars.

"I feel like maybe if you're not familiar with (State College), you might run into that a lot," Lauren said. "I feel like a lot of people at Penn State know how strict the bars and the bouncers are, so I feel like a lot of the time people don't even try with a fake ID."

Lt. Kelly Aston, an officer of the State College Police Department, said compared to the number of students at Penn State, there's not a huge amount of underage drinking cases.

As an officer of the SCPD for 24 years, Aston said the police en-

force underage drinking and false ID laws.

The State College police not only answer typical fake ID calls at the bars downtown, but also cases of student alcohol overdoses, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness.

According to Aston, incidents like a bar fight "result in a police call."

"If the person happens to also be underage and intoxicated, then they would suffer the consequence of having an underage drinking citation at the minimum," Aston said.

At the scenes of altercations Aston said an officer has the discretion to charge the individual with a summary offense, which is a lower level offense, or a misdemeanor offense which would lead to an appearance in court.

Aston said when the police get a call from a bar downtown it's usually because the bar staff look at the ID and know it's fake.

"They would call us, and we would go for an ID check and check the ID," Aston said. "We run it versus them just scanning it in their system, and we get the information back that says if it's a real ID or not."

If it's false, Aston said the offender would face charges.

Although Aston said she's not able to speak about the "strictness" of other college towns on fake ID confiscations, she thinks the bars in State College "have to be strict."

Continue reading here:



Graphic by Kaylyn McGrory

International students discuss their difficulties adjusting to a foreign country.

Judge dismisses Osagie family lawsuit

By **Olivia Estright**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit brought to court by the family of Osaze Osagie, a 29-year-old Black man who died after being shot by a State College police officer serving a

mental health warrant.

On Monday, a memorandum opinion said the court will not be holding the officers liable for not being mental health professionals and for "a death they did not cause."

"The State College Police Department is, as the name

suggests, a department of police officers, not mental health professionals," it said.

On Aug. 22, defendants M. Jordan Pieniazek, Christopher Hill, Keith Robb, Christian Fishel and the Borough of State College motioned to enter summary judgment in their favor.

‘Judge the cover by the cover’

A glimpse into Penn State alumnus, Jurassic Park logo designer Chip Kidd’s legacy

By Ethan M. Capitano
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Before his most recent trip to Japan’s Waseda University, Penn State alumnus Chip Kidd recalled a tip Paula Scher, a fellow graphic designer, told him before his first trip to the country: “Don’t try and tell any jokes.”

Known for designing many book covers, including the logo synonymous with the Jurassic Park franchise, Kidd is known for his humor and appearances in TED Talks.

Humor has always played a role in his life.

According to Rodney Trice, a former classmate of Kidd’s and a current graphic design professor at Penn State, Kidd had “a rabid sense of humor.”

“He could turn something — even something deadly serious — into something entertaining or funny,” Trice said. “He was exceptionally good at it.”

However, Kidd has recently separated from humor.

In the past five years, Kidd, “both personally and globally,” said he’s experienced so much change and “is exhausted by it.”

Kidd said he recently lost very close loved ones — his husband, father, editor-in-chief and a close colleague.

“I used to employ as much humor as possible,” Kidd said. “Although, you know, a lot has happened since the TED Talks.”

Over a series of dinners, Kidd said he became aware of and



Courtesy of Chip Kidd

Chip Kidd is most well-known for his design of the Jurassic Park logo. “He could turn something — even something deadly serious — into something entertaining or funny,” Rodney Trice, former classmate of Kidd, said.

acknowledged his personal change.

“I went out to dinner about a year ago with someone that I had met recently who then looked at one of my TED talks,” Kidd said. “We had dinner again, and he’s like, ‘Wow, you’re really not that person anymore.’ And I said, ‘that’s quite true. I am not.’”

Although, Kidd said, “I’m trying to get to be a little more humorous.”

Trice, who graduated from Penn State’s graphic design program in 1987, said Kidd may be grappling with other changes, too — in his privacy and industry.

For example, Trice said Kidd can’t attend Comic Con, which is one of his favorite events, with-

out people hounding him for autographs.

“That is part of the business, ... but the game can also feel a little like a trap,” Trice said. “With this personal stuff, I just wonder if it’s ... one of those things that (makes) you wish sometimes you could just push the timeout button and just stop your life.”

Trice said Kidd is “expected to be this character that ... was him,” but “when things change to a certain point, you just don’t feel like performing anymore.”

Trice said Kidd’s expected to be “this character,” but at some point, “you just don’t feel like performing anymore.”

“You go through the death of your partner; you go through CO-

VID, and then you go through an industry that’s just chewing at your tools and low-balling you every corner, and it has an effect,” Trice said. “Especially if you’re someone like Chip, this charismatic character (that’s) full of life.”

“Publishing and print media is struggling badly,” Trice said. “When Chip and I entered, ... it’s like we were kings. Now, we’re like part of the cheap end of media.

Sophia Alexander, one of Trice’s students, will soon enter the evolving world of graphic design.

Although many aspects of the industry are changing, some as-

pects remain consistent.

“As a graphic designer, you’re constantly being put up against other graphic designers to see who is the best to just get whatever job you can,” Alexander, a fourth-year studying graphic design, said.

Alexander said graphic designers, based on the vision the client provides, create “an experience ... that’s completely unique.”

“The way (Kidd) makes his book covers, in particular, are very inspired, and I feel like they have a very specific punch that I really love,” Alexander said. “It’s something unique and it’s something that anybody can feel just from looking at it.”

Alexander said she believes part of graphic design’s universality is the artist’s emotional connection to their work.

“That’s another thing that we do as designers is we project onto our work sometimes even without intending to,” Alexander said. “I feel like that’s what makes it human—it’s a human process, and we all are a part of it.”

According to Alexander’s view on graphic designers, a part of Kidd’s art — comedy and graphic design — includes part of his identity.

However, Kidd said he’s “really tired” of hearing the idiom “don’t judge a book by its cover.”

“Judge the cover by the cover,” Kidd said.

To email reporter: emc6398@psu.edu.
Follow him on X at [@Ethanmcap](https://twitter.com/Ethanmcap).

Students Teaching Students innovates learning

By Julia Ratner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

From learning about Formula One racing to analyzing Kanye West’s music, there’s a class for

students with a variety of interests through the Students Teaching Students program at Penn State.

The program, which started in spring 2020, is unique in not only

the classes it offers, but also in its teaching styles. Undergraduate students are able to teach their peers under the supervision of a professor or faculty member and students that take the class

are eligible to earn one to three credits.

Since its establishment, the program has grown and offers the opportunity for student instructors to gain experience. The student instructor positions are entirely volunteer.

Abby Han, the program director, said teaching these classes gives student instructors (SI) an opportunity to share their passions with the rest of the university and student body.

“As an SI, you certainly gain many important skills pertaining to organization, public speaking and leadership,” Han, a graduate student studying business, said. “Beyond that, you have an opportunity to show other Penn State students that it’s possible to turn your passion into something meaningful and educational for the broader community.”

Scott Rochman, an SI, said while he feels like he’s learned a lot regarding his major, he feels “unprepared” for adulthood.

Rochman, a fifth-year studying labor and human resources,

created the course HDFS 197: Navigating Your 20’s as a result of his personal experiences in constructing a life beyond Penn State.

“It’s so important to me to teach this class because I can personally relate to what our students are saying,” Rochman said.

Chase Adler, another SI, said he finds that students often think being taught by a peer has more of an impact on their learning experience.

Adler, a fourth-year studying finance, created and teaches the course COMM 197-001: Introduction to Formula One.

“It’s a better classroom experience for a lot of (students) that they can’t get regardless of whatever major or program they’re in,” Adler said.

Students on both sides of the program are able to benefit from each other, Rochman said.

“Being able to create a course and share that with your peers is incredibly fulfilling and rewarding.”



Courtesy of Michael Miller

Students Teaching Students provides unique teaching and learning styles by allowing students to teach their peers.

Word Search

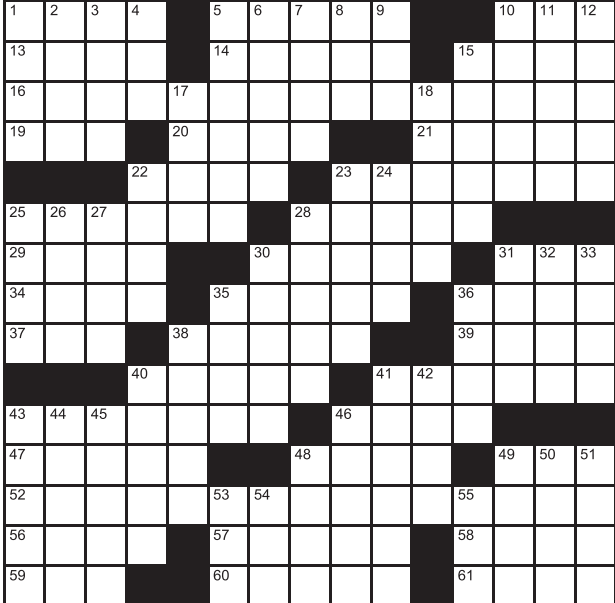
Texas Cities & Towns

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

Alamo
Amarillo
Arlington
Athens
Austin
Beaumont
Corpus Christi
Dallas
El Paso
Ennis
Fort Worth
Frisco
Galveston
Garland
Houston
Irving
Jasper

Laredo
Lubbock
Mckinney
Mesquite
Midland
Mission
Odessa
Olney
Pecos
Plano
Round Rock
San Antonio
Spring
Tyler
Waco
Wylie

Crossword



Across

1 Bridge call
5 “Rabbit food”
10 Two-year-old sheep
13 Italian wine center
14 Tolerate
15 Mountain lion
16 Thingamajig
19 Race unit
20 After curfew
21 Cunning
22 Dark region of the moon
23 Came down hard
25 Yacht facility
28 Gawk
29 Love god
30 Plant life
31 E or G, e.g.
34 Goals
35 Fresh from the shower
36 Snowman prop
37 Day break?
38 Swift
39 Inspiration
40 Salad oil holder
41 Mature male goose
43 Fencing moves
46 Briton

47 Plant louse genus
48 Televises
49 Took the cake, say
52 Building materials
56 Connect
57 Sleep disorder
58 Seals’ meals
59 Corrida call
60 Pine
61 Fairy tale starter

Down

1 Hinged catch
2 Court legend
3 American elk
4 Command to Fido
5 1943 Bogart film
6 Diminish
7 Vitamin C source
8 Nabokov novel
9 Holiday mo.
10 Garden bulb
11 Author Zola
12 Like some communities
15 Feather in one’s cap
17 Family group
18 Ancient market
22 Overlook
23 Brown ermine
24 Mountain lake

25 Ill-tempered
26 Puccini piece
27 Easy win
28 Winter hazard
30 Hightails it
31 Captain
32 Fencing sword
33 Orbital period
35 Whodunit hint
36 Four gills
38 Search
40 Pain in the neck?
41 European language
42 “The Sun ____ Rises”
43 Cellist Casals
44 Patriots’ Day month
45 Kind of wine
46 Hot or cold drink
48 Oscar winner
49 Egyptian solar deity
50 Toiletry item
51 Limerick language
53 Put into words
54 Gibbon, for one
55 ____ Speedwagon

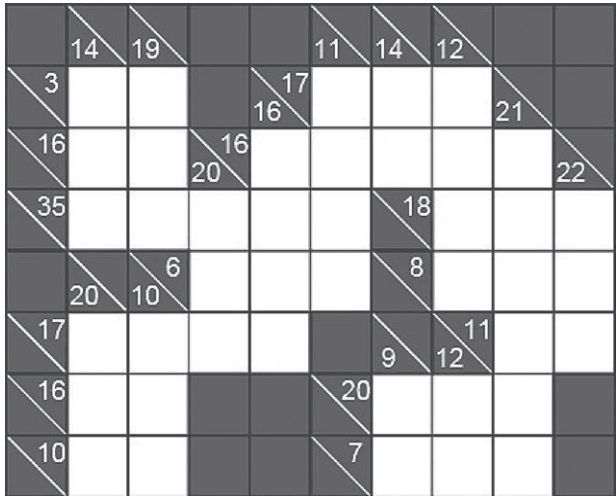


BUY IT ——— SELL IT ——— RENT IT

FOR RENT

3BR and 1 bath furnished town house for rent from August 2024. Close to campus and bus route and free three-car parking. Contact or text at 814-571-7624.

Kakuro



The rules are easy:

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

Rising to new heights

Penn State Club Climbing fosters connections and competition year-round

By Kate Hildebrand
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

When Penn State students are up to their heads in school-work and stress, they can work through it — or climb up.

Penn State Club Climbing gives athletes the opportunity to escape their stress by rising above it — literally.

The team holds practice at Climb Nittany in Boalsburg three times a week. It also hosts Monday night climbs at the Intramural Building, open to anyone who wants to try out climbing.

JJ Wong, president and coach of the team, started climbing in 2020 and led the charge to turn the climbing club into a club sport.

Wong, a fourth-year studying broadcast journalism, said the atmosphere of the team is “very welcoming,” and athletes are there to “support each other and have fun.”

“Climbers can be introverted,” Wong said, noting that the team provides support and friendship.

Nicolas Cardenas-Miller, another of the club’s coaches, said though some might not like the workouts he and Wong lead, they’re “going through it with friends.”

Emma Shepherd and Carolyn DeRosa met through Club Climbing at Penn State. They now have a podcast, Crag Gals, that they host with some other friends from the climbing team.

DeRosa, a fourth-year studying film production, won the USA Climbing Collegiate Ambassador



Sam Leeds/Courtesy

Penn State Climbing Club brings students together to converse and participate in unique collegiate competitions.

scholarship through her work with the team as secretary, social media coordinator and her work on the Crag Gals podcast.

Penn State Club Climbing has fostered friendships and connections even outside of the university.

The organization has traveled to two competitions so far this semester. The atmosphere at a climbing competition is much different than other sports.

“We tend to work with people from other schools,” Wong said.

Climbers will help each other figure out the best route to take and the best holds to use, regardless of whether they’re on the same team. This isn’t unique to

collegiate competitions, Wong said.

At any bouldering competition, local or national, the athletes talk to each other and work together before their climbs.

Shepherd, a fourth-year studying biology, said climbing has a team aspect but the competition is “you against yourself.”

Though climbing is a relatively new club sport at Penn State, the team has already found success.

It began its inaugural season in fall 2022, only two years after the climbing club was formed.

Cardenas-Miller, a third-year studying economics and political science, said one of his favorite moments from last year’s sea-

son was when the team went to a USA Climbing competition in the spring. Many Penn State athletes qualified for USA Climbing’s collegiate nationals.

In its second year, the team has grown to include 43 competitive members and over 400 club members, those who don’t compete but join the team to climb recreationally.

To be a leader, Shepherd said, is to be at the “entry point for the rest of the community.”

She said it was amazing to see the work that she and the members of the executive board put in paid off and impacted the climbing community in a positive way.

Penn State Club Climbing started out in 2020 as a student organization. Wong, Shepherd, Cardenas-Miller and DeRosa were all involved in the process of making climbing a club sport.

“We have athletes who are brand new,” Wong said, “and people who have been in the sport for a decade. It’s a niche, powerful community.”

While many individual sports are about constant training, Cardenas-Miller said climbing puts a lot of emphasis on rest.

“Climbing uses a lot of very fragile muscles,” Cardenas-Miller said. “You have to have a strong mental fortitude.”

Climbing, especially lead, is “mentally challenging,” DeRosa said. Lead is a type of climbing that uses ropes, another person belaying the rope and built-in clips along the route to protect the climber from a fall.

“There’s nothing but a rope and a harness and someone I trust with my life below me,” DeRosa said. “I’d always been scared of taking big steps, but climbing has helped build more confidence in myself.”

Climbing doesn’t just exercise mental and physical muscles, though.

It’s a sport that anyone can do “as long as you’re willing to throw some creativity in,” Wong said.

“Climbing provides the ability for people to learn about themselves in a creative way,” Shepherd said, “and in a way that pushes their limits.”

MY VIEW | TEAGAN MAYR



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Names are crucial to first impressions. Making an effort to pronounce names correctly will aid relationships and learning.

Practicing name pronunciation

First impressions are important.

First impressions can set



Mayr

the tone for relationships far into the future. While many first impressions are mainly based on looks, the impact of someone’s name cannot be ignored.

A name is an identity — it shares part of someone’s background before their story can be shared.

The United States is known as a melting pot full of various cultures. As a result, this brings together multiple languages, lifestyles and names.

In different cultures, specific name placements have different meanings. It’s not an order that’s standard across cultures, but despite this, names have impacts and tie to people’s stories.

Sometimes names are outside of our linguistic knowledge. However, we have the capability to learn.

Our ability to learn is limitless, and that includes the ca-

pability to learn about different cultures — including people’s names.

Names and nicknames may seem minor, but names come from identities and can have a significant impact on one’s self-perception.

Relationships should be built with the desire to help others, promote self-discovery and help others perform at their best. People can’t do that if their name does not reflect who they are.

According to Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs, just above physical safety needs is the need for love and belonging. This theory explains the human motivation to pursue a new level of needs as each one is fulfilled. Without all of these needs fulfilled, a person can’t be expected to work at full potential.

Oftentimes people who have names that are not typical for white people change their names or rely mainly on nicknames to make it supposedly easier for others to identify them. These efforts have become the expectation, as many

people have adopted them.

It’s not an individual’s responsibility to simplify their identity for convenience in understanding.

People deserve to embrace their stories and their names’ meaning that their parents passed down to them.

Little comments about name complications and failure to make an effort to know someone’s actual name show a lack of compassion to know the basic facts about a fellow human being.

Whether it be a name assigned at birth or a chosen name, everyone deserves to have people in their life who make the effort to know who they are.

It starts with one step: understanding that a first impression is someone’s name.

Teagan Mayr is a junior majoring in political science and broadcast journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her tem5501@psu.edu or follow her on X at [@mayr_teagan](https://twitter.com/mayr_teagan).

MY VIEW | BRADEN DYRESON

SATIRE: Finals cheating guide

Editor’s Note: The Daily Collegian does not endorse any of the following blatant academic integrity violations and criminal offenses.



Dyreson

In the iconic words of Dr. Stephen Strange, “We’re in the endgame now.” Finals week is almost upon us. Stress and anxiety are in the air. The academic culmination is imminent.

This is when one makes their final push of effort to make it through.

Often, the most work you’ve done all semester is cheating effectively for finals. The creativity required to find new ways to cheat is honestly astounding and deserves to be applauded.

However, for some of us, it can be difficult to commit academic integrity violations — not because of ethical reasons, but because cheating is hard work.

But the holidays are a time for giving, so I’ve developed some foolproof, easy-to-use methods to help you cheat for finals this year.

Use ChatGPT to write your essays

Generative artificial intelligence has created so many awesome and exciting new avenues for cheating.

ChatGPT is easy to use and honestly writes better than you. Just plug in the prompt for the essay, and let the robots give you a B-worthy essay.

Sleep with your TA

An oldy but a goody.

Sleeping with the teaching assistant is an excellent way to give your grade the leg up in the class.

Of course, this method may be a bridge too far for some since, as we all know, some TAs are more attractive than others.

Yet, if you’re willing to take the plunge, sleeping with your TA can be a great way to give your GPA the bump it deserves. **Continue reading here:**



DAILY COLLEGIAN
Collegian Inc., 115 Carnegie Building,
University Park, PA. 16802 ©2023 Collegian Inc.

BOARD OF EDITORS

Editor-in-Chief

Nick Stonesifer

Managing Editor

Olivia Estright

Digital Managing Editor

Sophia Montanye

News Editors

Ella Castronuovo

Amy Schafer

Lifestyle Editors

Fernanda López

Milan Varia

Sports Editors

Daniel Perez

Liam Wichser

Football Editor

Seth Engle

Social Media Editor

Olivia Woodring

Features and Investigations Editor

Anjelica Rubin

Opinion Editor

Olivia Woodring

Photo Editors

Jackson Ranger

Sienna Pinney

Multimedia Editors

Brenanne Axelson

Alex Osman

To contact News Division:
News, Opinions, Arts, Sports, Photo, Graphics, The
Daily Collegian Online and The Weekly Collegian
Phone: 814-865-1828

BOARD OF

MANAGERS

Business Manager

Luke Vargas

Advertising Manager

Scott Witham

Creative Director

Emma Dilts

Emily Shank

Marketing Director

Juliana Ruzza

Katy Riley

Business Insights Director

Marcelo Santos

Jonathan Zavialov

Sales Directors

Sophia Sponaugle

Chris Venzin

To contact Business Division:
Advertising, circulation, accounting and classifieds
Phone: 814-865-2531
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

We want to hear from you

Send us your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

Email: editorinchief@psucollegian.com

Online: collegian.psu.edu

Postal Mail/In Person: 115 Carnegie Building, University Park, PA

Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include graduation year. All writers should provide their address and phone number for

verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

Who we are

The Daily Collegian’s editorial

About the Collegian

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

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

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

Complaints

News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

oceanstatejoblot.com

Follow us on social:



2222 East College Ave.
State College
Nittany Commons
Shopping Center

We accept LionCash!

LionCash is only accepted at the State College location.

Ocean State
JOB
LOT®

Scan the QR code
to check out our
weekly flyer!



Discount done differently!

Bring holiday cheer and get **extraordinary value** on gifts for all your family and friends this season at **Ocean State Job Lot**. Shop for gifts for the DIYer, baker and the glam lover, plus toys for the kids, and more! **Start saving today!**



Shop us for incredible deals on quality items, including:

- Toys
- Fire pits
- Heaters
- Office supplies
- Storage
- Shelving
- Rugs & mats
- Furniture
- Small appliances
- Pet supplies
- Clothing
- Shoes
- Personal care
- Cleaning
- Home essentials
- Spices
- Snacks
- Beverages
- Coffee
- Partyware

CRAZY DEALS!

Crazy Deals® are a unique way for **Job Lot Insiders**® to save even more!



When you're an Insider and you purchase a Crazy Deal item, you receive a Crazy Deal Gift Card. Crazy Deal Gift Cards can be used to purchase nearly everything in our stores.

Become a **Job Lot Insider**®

Insider exclusive benefits:

- Insider Coupons
- Exclusive Deals
- Crazy Deals®
- Sneak Peeks
- Digital Receipts
- Returns without Receipts



Scan the QR code
to sign up!



‘ULTIMATE TEAM SPORT’

Penn State women’s rugby exhibits togetherness, grit

By Daniel Mader
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Rugby has a rich 61-year history in Happy Valley. After the first ever Penn State rugby game was played in 1962, the university launched its women’s rugby program 28 years later — over time, it’s become one of the nation’s best.

Penn State has qualified for the National Playoffs in 24 of its last 25 seasons. “Rugby is the ultimate team sport,” Penn State coach Kate Daley said. “What it takes from you in terms of confidence and mental resilience and your ability to bounce back, I think is different (than other sports).” Daley has been at the helm of the program since 2014 after she wore blue and white on the field from 2004 to 2009.

Before her return to Penn State, she had the opportunity to travel to France to represent the U.S. in the 2014 Women’s Rugby World Cup, where she was the team’s captain. “It was an amazing experience,” Daley said of the World Cup. “The experience that gives you as a person — not just an athlete — is pretty amazing.” After breaking her leg during the action in France, she returned to Happy Valley — this time as a coach. Coincidentally, former Penn State coach Pete Steinberg, who coached the program to five NCAA titles between 1995 and 2009, was on his way out. As Steinberg stepped down, he mentored Daley into her now nine-year role, leading one of the nation’s top-notch collegiate women’s rugby programs. “He did such a great job at building a great culture,” Daley said of Steinberg. For nearly a decade now, Daley’s been tasked not just with coaching but also teaching the physical sport to new players — something most collegiate head



Courtesy of Kathleen Daley

Penn State women's rugby team huddles up after its match against Navy for the Alex Weisser Memorial Game. Penn State women's rugby was established 61 years ago.

coaches aren’t tasked with. However, Daley said one of the most special aspects of collegiate rugby is to watch a freshman that’s new to the sport grow over their four years. “I think for female athletes in particular, rugby builds confidence like no other sport,” Daley said. This season, senior Miranda Heffelfinger and juniors Sarah Holler and Jaida Beshears are the team’s captains. Of the three, only Beshears played the sport before arriving in Happy Valley. “I didn’t play rugby in high school or anything,” Heffelfinger said. “I really missed being competitive and playing sports and just doing something with a team.” For Beshears, rugby’s always been a part of her life. “My dad played (rugby), so I was always around the sport,” Beshears said. “I came to Penn State because I was being coached by an alumni, Gabby Cantorna. ... She really

emphasized how great the program is.” Rugby’s a continuous, tough sport, and unlike football, it doesn’t have separated downs. There isn’t time between plays, and there’s no pads or helmets. “You have to keep going regardless of whether you lost the ball or not,” Daley said. The physicality of the sport helps the team come together. “You’re with your friends, and they have your back, so you’re gonna make that tackle, and if you don’t, they’re gonna make it,” Holler said. Heffelfinger agreed and said on game day, she steps on the field with her best friends. “No matter who’s to the left or right of me, I trust who’s going to be there,” Heffelfinger said. Rugby players don’t just have to be strong; they have to be well-conditioned. It’s somewhat of a mix between soccer and football: Players need strength to tackle, but they need conditioning to run around the

field for an hour-and-a-half. Daley emphasized that coaching rugby isn’t just about growing on the field, as it also helps players build confidence in who they are off the field. “I would say that it’s a pretty progressive sport in terms of sexual identity and gender identity,” Daley said. “I think that that also makes (the rugby community) a really special place.” There’s a unique bond and level of support found between rugby teammates and communities. It’s a rewarding sport that brings people together. “Everyone cares about you and wants to see you succeed in school and on the field,” Holler said about the support of Penn State’s rugby program. Daley’s squad went 4-6 this season. In the future, the coach said she wants to see the rugby community continue to grow across the country. “It’s still not very mainstream,” Daley said. “(We

need to see) more players picking it up at the lowest level for us to continue to build into the collegiate community.” This season, Heffelfinger, Holler and Beshears have been leaders in getting the younger players on the team passionate about rugby. “Bringing other people the love for the sport that we have is the biggest thing,” Heffelfinger said on the duties of being a captain. Over the years, the women’s rugby team has been one of Penn State’s most successful. More importantly, it’s a program that’s open and accepting of all its athletes. “It doesn’t matter what your size is (or) who you are .. anybody can play anywhere,” Beshears said. “There’s absolutely zero judgment when you come on a (rugby) team. You can be an absolute weirdo and still fit in. Everybody has a place in rugby.”

To email reporter: dbm5725@psu.edu. Follow him on X at [@DanielMader_](https://twitter.com/DanielMader_).

Full steam ahead for Kanye Clary

Injury scare underscores his role in Penn State men’s basketball’s system

By Joe Tuman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State’s trip to Kissimmee, Florida didn’t go according to plan as it lost all three contests during the ESPN Events Invitational. Results aside, another unwanted surprise came when sophomore Kanye Clary left last Sunday’s game against VCU with what appeared to be a right arm injury. He exited after the first three minutes and didn’t return until there were 11 minutes remaining in the second half. When he checked back in, his arm was wrapped, seemingly indicating a nagging wound. However, Mike Rhoades said Clary will be good to go against Bucknell on December 2. He said Clary only “got hit in the elbow and got a stinger,” thus avoiding any time on the sideline. “He lost feeling in his arm and

hand and his fingers. He said it happened to him in high school and took a long time for it to come back, about two hours,” Rhoades said. “I’ve never experienced that before, but when you coach long enough, you go through it all.” Altogether, Clary logged nine minutes and missed his only shot attempt. His sudden re-introduction in the second half disrupted Penn State’s momentum, leading to him subbing back out for the final five minutes. The point guard said he’s glad the stinger was just a blip on the radar but was still unhappy with how things unfolded. “At the end of the day, I just got to make sure I’m healthy,” Clary said. “It’s feeling better. That’s a good thing but it was definitely frustrating.” Even if it was just a one-off, Clary’s absence during much of the blue and white’s 86-74 loss highlighted his importance. Before the VCU game, he was averaging a team-leading 19.5 points per game. Having just scored 28 points



Katelyn Supancik/Collegian

Guard Kanye Clary guards Morehead during the Penn State men’s basketball game against Morehead State on Nov. 17. in the Bryce Jordan Center.



Katelyn Supancik/Collegian

Guard Ace Baldwin Jr. dribbles the ball during the Penn State men’s basketball game against Morehead State on Nov. 17.

against Butler two days earlier, it was clear Rhoades and his players expected him to be the focal point of the offensive attack once again. Without him, senior Ace Baldwin Jr. stepped up and scored a season-high 27 points, while also dishing out five assists. Rhoades said the veteran “stepped up” in a tough spot. “He battled the other day, he logged a lot of minutes (in) all three games,” Rhoades said. “We need that competitiveness from him all the time.” Baldwin is accustomed to being the lead guard in Rhoades’ system, having done so while at VCU. This year, he split those duties with Clary, which has produced some mixed results. While both have contributed as scorers, they’ve yet to truly establish what one should be doing when the other has the ball. This work-in-progress partially explains why Penn State only produces 10 assists per game

— the 338th-best mark in the country. “Those two guys are still learning to play together, these are ball-dominant guys,” Rhoades said. “They both can make plays. I just think both of them have got to make more plays for each other and their teammates and that comes with time.” Without his usual backcourt mate, Baldwin appeared more comfortable but the lineup as a whole suffered. The offense wasn’t quite the same without Clary’s ability to push the pace and play with speed and confidence. Of course, it’s not all doom and gloom. Clary and Baldwin are still ironing out their offensive fit, but they’ve quickly clicked on defense. Averaging a combined 3.5 steals per game, their determination to pressure opposing ball handlers has also benefited Penn State throughout the early stages of the season

— these important traits were absent against the Rams. Through seven games together, the duo has both found things that work while also dealing with some hiccups. With lots of ball left to be played, they’ll look to continue growing from here. With Clary healthy and ready to jump back into the swing of things, their growth could continue against Bucknell. Heading into that contest, Rhoades said he expects his entire roster, including the guards, to be motivated by defeat. “I hope they’re mad, they should be mad, they better be mad,” Rhoades said. “But also, you can be upset and mad, but you’ve got to come here with an open mind and a clear mind. It’s all about getting better.”

To email reporter: jnt5213@psu.edu. Follow him on X at [@JTuman21](https://twitter.com/JTuman21).

REGULAR SEASON RECAP

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Drew Allar’s second pass of the season, he stepped up in the pocket and launched a rope to KeAndre Lambert-Smith for a 72-yard touchdown.

The big play was Allar’s longest pass of the season and served as a beacon of hope for the Nittany Lion faithful.

A former 5-star quarterback meshed with an all-star defense, which seemed like the pairing that could lift Penn State over the hump and into the elite threshold of college football.

Defensive coordinator Manny Diaz’s unit never wavered, allowing the fewest yards in the nation and the third fewest points, including three shutouts.

In contrast, the offense faltered. It showed warning signs in uninspiring wins against Illinois and Northwestern, but things truly melted down in losses to Ohio State and Michigan.

Penn State struggled to find big plays all year, while running backs Kaytron Allen and Nick Singleton failed to build on stellar freshman seasons.

The result was an underwhelming season for Allar and the firing of offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich.

The Nittany Lions concluded the season on a high note, stuffing Michigan State 42-0 on Black Friday.

The win pushed Penn State to 10-2 on the year and renewed optimism ahead of a likely New Year’s Six bowl game berth.

It was a year bookended by promising performances, but everything in between raised more questions than answers for Penn State.

Here are the top storylines from the 2023 season.



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Penn State football players sing the alma mater after the football game against Rutgers at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 18.

MVP: Adisa Isaac

Penn State’s team MVP could really go to any player on the defense, which carried the team on its shoulders throughout the year, but defensive end Adisa Isaac takes home the award after making strides in his fifth season with the program.

Isaac was a force on the defensive line with a team-leading 7.5 sacks and 15 tackles for loss. After a season-ending Achilles injury in 2021, Isaac appeared to be back at full strength as the Nittany Lions’ leading pass rusher.

Serving as a team captain, Isaac was productive on and off the field in likely his final season with the program.

Biggest letdown:

Wide receivers

Entering the season, there

were doubts about Penn State’s receiving corps, which lost ex-starters Parker Washington and Mitchell Tinsley to the NFL last spring.

The Nittany Lions attempted to remedy the depleted room by adding Dante Cephas and Malik McClain in the transfer portal, talented and experienced receivers who were expected to be impact players.

Outside of KeAndre Lambert-Smith, who leads the team with 53 catches and 673 yards, Penn State had very limited production from its receivers.

Cephas and McClain combined for only 28 catches, and No. 2 receiver Harrison Wallace III battled injuries.

Meanwhile, a collection of young receivers that included Omari Evans, Kaden Saunders and Liam Clifford failed to make consistent impacts.

The bulk of Penn State’s receiving production came from tight ends Theo Johnson and Tyler Warren, who both enjoyed solid seasons.

Without weapons on the outside, Allar struggled to create the big plays that many expected from the offense this season.

Biggest surprise:

Offensive woes

Penn State’s offense was expected to be one of the nation’s best with a talented running back duo, an experienced offensive line and a highly-touted quarterback set to make his debut.

In some metrics, the Nittany Lions performed well offensively. They averaged 37.2 points per game and finished in the top half nationally in total yards, all while turning the ball over just six times.

But in the two games Penn State had to win — against Ohio State and Michigan — it regressed to its usual losing ways.

In each of those games, the Nittany Lions tallied under 300 total yards and scored just 12 and 15 points, respectively. Allar, thought to be Penn State’s savior, completed less than 50% of his passes in those games in flat performances.

The running game couldn’t get going either; as neither Allen nor Singleton eclipsed 1,000 yards while the big plays were almost absent.

The Michigan loss resulted in the firing of Yurcich, symbolic of a disappointing season for a Penn State offense that was supposed to be different.

What’s next?

The good news for Penn State is that it still finished with 10 wins and will likely have a prestigious bowl game ahead.

But it’ll be an important offseason, as Franklin and company will have to find a new offensive coordinator that can unlock the potential of Allar and the offense.

On the other side of the ball, Diaz is a hot name on the coaching market, and Penn State will have to do everything it can to keep its defensive coordinator for another season.

Additionally, Penn State will be challenged to contend in the portal, which will likely have plenty of talented players who can help bolster an already solid roster.

The decisions the program makes this summer will have a ripple effect in a Big Ten conference that’s due to get much tougher in 2024.

To email reporter: skm5753@psu.edu.
Follow him on X @[sam_woloson](#).

Expectation vs. execution

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With Penn State’s regular season finished, the Nittany Lions’ 2023 season can finally be fully reviewed.

Every year, teams and players face expectations that they will either achieve or fall short, and Penn State isn’t an exception.

Here’s how three preseason expectations played out this season.

Expectation: Nick Singleton improvement

Kaytron Allen and Nick Singleton both rushed for over 850 yards as true freshmen a season ago, but 2023 hasn’t been as fruitful for Singleton.

While Allen is on pace to improve on his 2022 totals in yardage, yards per game and yards per carry, Singleton is set to regress in almost every category this season.

Singleton finished with 1,061 rushing yards and 12 touchdowns on 156 carries last season, averaging out to 81.62 yards per game and 6.8 yards per carry. With only the bowl game remaining in 2023, Singleton has recorded 702 rushing yards and eight rushing touchdowns on 163 carries, good for 58.5 yards per game and 4.3 yards per carry.

Part of the reason for the drop off on the stat sheet has been Singleton’s lack of explosive runs, which has been a theme throughout the entire offense.

Singleton recorded four rushes of at least 40 yards in 2022, including an 87-yard touchdown run in the Rose Bowl. So far this season, Singleton’s longest run is a modest 24 yards.

Now, Singleton has improved his receiving numbers and as a blocker, but a 2.5-yard drop in yards per carry has been a regression.

Execution: Failure

Expectation: Top-tier defense

Penn State was expected to have one of the country’s top defenses heading into the season, and it didn’t disappoint.

The Nittany Lions are No. 3 in the country in points allowed per game, only allowing an average of 11.42 points per game. Penn State also leads the FBS in total sacks and fewest total yards allowed, and is ranked No. 2 in tackles for

loss and forced turnovers.

Some of the Nittany Lions’ pass rush has come from defensive linemen or linebackers winning their individual matchups, but defensive coordinator Manny Diaz has found a lot of success scheming sacks with blitzes off the edge.

For example, cornerback Johnny Dixon is tied for second on Penn State with 4.5 sacks so far. Cornerback Cam Miller is tied for No. 6 on the Nittany Lions with three sacks.

Penn State’s success on the defensive side of the football landed linebacker Abdul Carter and defensive linemen Chop Robinson and Adisa Isaac on the All-Big Ten first team.

Execution: Success

Expectation: Transfer receiver success

The Nittany Lions’ offense as a whole has been underwhelming, and Penn State’s wide receiver room has been one of the culprits.

After losing Parker Washington and Mitchell Tinsley to last year’s NFL Draft, the Nittany Lions were left with KeAndre Lambert-Smith and Harrison Wallace III as the only two receivers with any meaningful experience.

As a result, Penn State dipped into the transfer portal and earned commitments from former Kent State receiver Dante Cephas and former Florida State receiver Malik McClain.

Many expected Cephas especially to have an instant impact at the No. 3 receiver spot, but it was Liam Clifford who ended up being named a starting receiver in the Nittany Lions’ season opener.

McClain made an impact in the season opener, recording four receptions for 58 yards and a touchdown, before recording one reception in each of Penn State’s next two games. Since then, McClain hasn’t caught a pass.

Cephas has shown flashes throughout the season, including a six-reception, two-touchdown performance against Maryland, but has only caught more than two passes in one other game outside of that.

Execution: Failure

To email reporter: zma5142@psu.edu.
Follow him on X @[zachallen0](#).



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

Penn State running backs coach Ja’Juan Seider leads drills during spring football practice on April 11 at Holuba Hall.

Interim OCs find success

By Joel Haas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

This season, Penn State has found success when using two tight ends or two quarterbacks. On Friday, it found success using two offensive coordinators.

In just their second game at the helm, co-interim offensive coordinators Ja’Juan Seider and Ty Howle orchestrated a masterful performance, culminating in a 42-0 victory over Michigan State.

“I think the offense as a whole has handled it really well, there’s been no flinch with us. Coach Seider, coach Howle, have done an unbelievable job of getting us all on the same page, communicating with us,” quarterback Drew Allar said after the game. “I think we did a great job allowing our guys to play fast just for simplicity. We talked about it, simplicity equals speed.”

Penn State posted a whopping 586 yards of offense, balanced between the air and ground, for its best all-around performance of the season.

For two new play-callers, the performance was an impressive display leading an offense that had severely lacked explosion all season.

“We work so hard and put so much emphasis on third downs and explosive plays and not turning the ball over and stuff like that,” Theo Johnson said. “So seeing all those kinds of things that we’ve worked on so hard all season fall together, it’s a really good feeling and it just gives you a lot of confidence, es-

pecially coming with two new offensive coordinators that came in late in the season.”

The team recorded a season-high in total yards, aided by several explosive plays that hadn’t been present in the past.

“I thought we did some good things tonight in terms of emphasizing the tight ends and running backs. I thought we did that the last two weeks,” James Franklin said. “We were able to take some shots as well. We’ve been more explosive.”

Ten different Nittany Lions caught passes and five recorded carries, with six different players recording touchdowns on the night.

“We’re playing more guys, we’re rotating more guys, so that’s a factor as well. But I think the biggest thing is we got some guys that I think can really do some good things,” Franklin said.

Malick Meiga recorded just his third catch of the season, while Omari Evans hauled in his fourth of the year. Evans’ reception was a 60-yard strike, which set Penn State up on the doorstep of the end zone.

“Omari did a great job of tracking it. It can be challenging in a dome setting that we haven’t been in this year, tracking the ball with the light, especially how high it was,” Drew Allar said. “He did a great job of cooking down with the catch and it was a great route by him too.”

Beau Pribula has typically only found the field in garbage time, but was able to get involved on Penn State’s first drive of the second half, as well as multiple

other times throughout the game. The redshirt freshman finished 2-for-2 passing with a touchdown and added a two-yard rushing touchdown.

Even when he wasn’t touching the football, Pribula was on the field as a decoy to throw off the Spartan defense.

“We were able to play both quarterbacks, something that we really wanted to do more all year long, but we were able to emphasize the last two weeks,” Franklin said.

Penn State had 11 plays of 15 or more yards, with six different players responsible, blowing out the team’s previous season-highs. Finding chunk plays and being able to do so with different weapons was something the Nittany Lions had been missing under Mike Yurcich.

While Michigan State’s defense is one of the worst in the conference, the firewall display from the Penn State offense was impressive nonetheless; the team failed to post similar numbers at any point under Yurcich this season.

Penn State averaged far more yards-per-play against the Spartans (8.7) than any other opponent this season, including against Delaware (5.9) and UMass (6.8).

“Hopefully we get a New Year’s Six bowl game or whatever bowl game we play in, I know we’re going to be super excited to play in it,” Pribula said. “It’s just good to end on a high note so everybody gets flowing right into the postseason.”

To email reporter: jrh6558@psu.edu.
Follow him on X @[Joel_Haas1](#).



\$10 off your next 10 orders?

That’s a good deal.
Ask any Econ major.

Use promo code: **EATSCOLLEGE10**



Uber Eats

Terms apply. Offer expires 12/14/23. Taxes & fees still apply.
Limited to \$10 off per order. Exclusions may apply. See app for details.

ORDER NOW

