
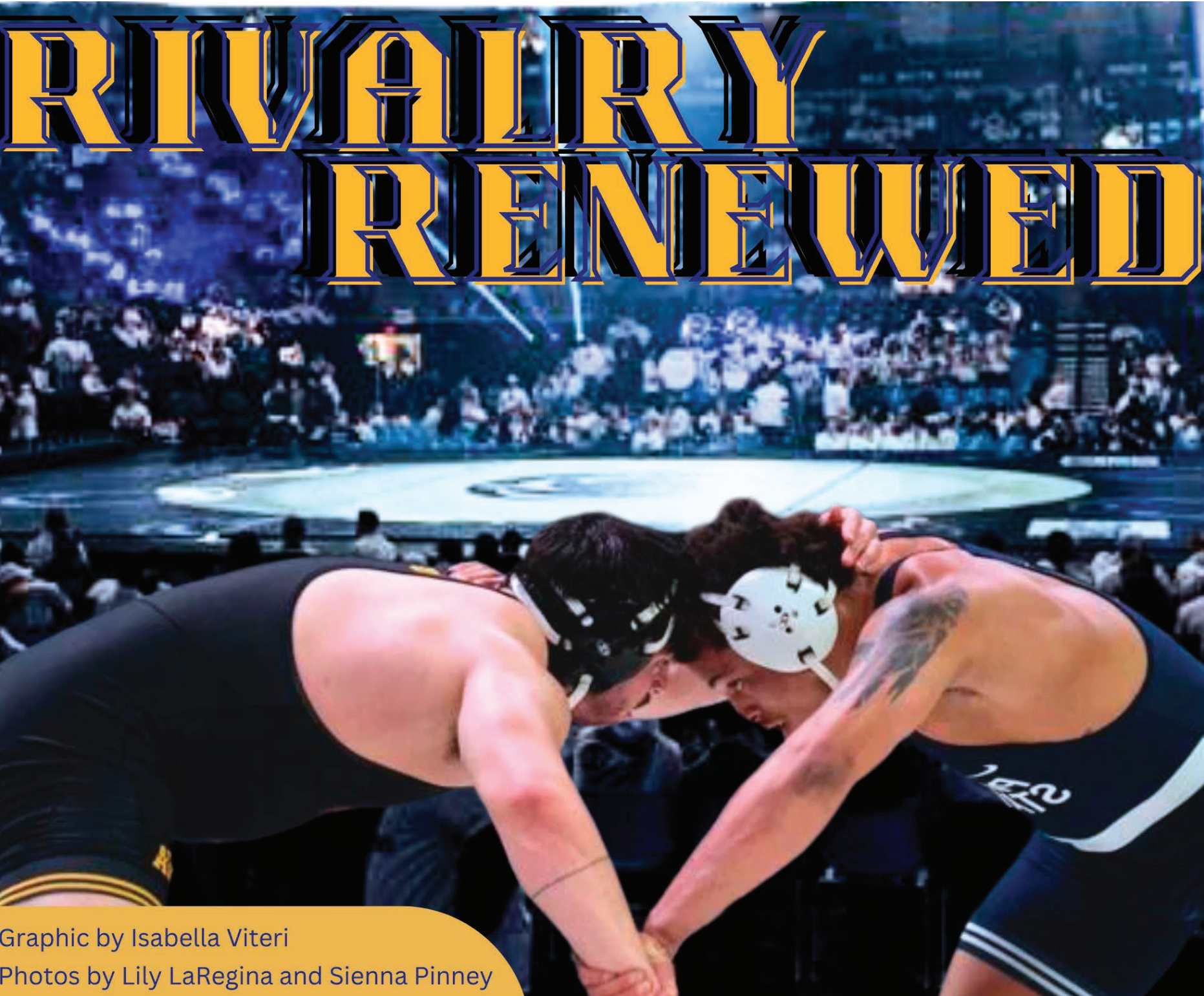


VERSUS

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No. 2 IOWA (9-0)HAWKEYES(9-0) No. 1 PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS





Graphic by Isabella Viteri
Photos by Lily LaRegina and Sienna Pinney

SETTLING THE BEEF

By Andrew Deal
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The matchup between No. 1 Penn State and No. 2 Iowa stems from two of the greatest programs and dynasties in the history of collegiate wrestling.

The Hawkeyes won their first national championship in 1975, then won 10 of the next 11 championships from 1976 to 1986. In another 10-year span, Iowa won nine of 10 championships during the 1990s.

After Iowa won three more in a row from 2008 to 2010, it was Penn State’s turn for a run with the title.

Since 2011, the Nittany Lions have won all but two titles — including losing to Iowa in 2021 —

and have created their own dynasty, overtaking the Hawkeyes as the current top program.

The rivalry adds another historic edition at 7 p.m. Friday between the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the country, and there’s been no shortage of fireworks leading up to the most anticipated matchup of the season.

This year’s beef revolves around 184 pounds.

No. 1 Carter Starocci bumped up a weight class and is going for his historic fifth national championship. However, a young, up-and-coming star for the Hawkeyes has called his shot.

Redshirt freshman Gabe Arnold, ranked No. 5, called out Starocci during his postgame press conference last Sunday af-

ter defeating Ohio State’s Ryder Rogotzke, who’s ranked No. 19.

“We got Penn State last week. We didn’t get the job done last year, and that kind of sucks, but we’re gonna get it done this year,” Arnold said Sunday. “This time, we’ll be in your home dojo, and I promise your head’s mine. Book it.”

Penn State’s Mitchell Mesenbrink shared his psychological views on smack talk during Monday’s media session.

“When they look at them, there’s a mirror; it reflects something in them that maybe they don’t have,” Mesenbrink said.

Arnold has some history of facing a wrestler on the Nittany Lions roster: Arnold battled true freshman Zack Ryder in the 2024

U20 Men’s Freestyle World Team Trials.

The match was a best two out of three, in which Ryder defeated Arnold in two matches, 5-4 and 4-2. The victory meant more for Ryder following some remarks from Arnold, who had already called out Starocci over the summer.

Ryder is the backup to Starocci and is setting up to be the next in line at 184 pounds after Starocci’s eligibility is up. But this season, it’s likely Arnold versus Starocci, with Arnold calling his shot against him.

When shots are called, there’s typically a response. Starocci threw shade at Arnold during Penn State’s weekly media availability on Monday, saying he’s

worse competition than Iowa’s other wrestler at 184, Angelo Ferrari.

“I thought the other guy (Ferrari) was the starter. Didn’t the other guy win the tournament?” Starocci said. “I think the game plan is for the other guy. I think the other guy is the better wrestler ... Maybe he’s trying to sell tickets, but I think our crowd shows up every single time, so there’s nothing to sell. I’ll be there Friday night ready to go.”

Starocci affirmed that he would be ready Friday night, no matter the opponent, but a top-five matchup against Arnold would surely get fans more invested.

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Nittany Lions return to 2nd home

By AJ Piazza
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

No. 1 Penn State has hosted at least one dual at the Bryce Jordan Center since 2013, excluding the 2020-21 COVID season. It’s usually the squad’s biggest match of the season and has the highest attendance.

The Nittany Lions refer to Rec Hall as their main home, but the BJC has quickly emerged as a second home against the biggest opponents.

The first-ever Bryce Jordan Center dual was in 1996 against No. 1 Iowa, where Penn State won 22-15. Since then, the Nittany Lions have hosted multiple duals at the BJC — a bigger venue that’s attracted more eyes to the top-ranked Nittany Lions.

Coach Cael Sanderson joined the program in 2009, but his first coaching appearance at the BJC came in 2013 against Pitt — a matchup that raked in the fifth-highest attendance in NCAA dual meet history, bringing in 15,996 fans.

Sanderson has been a part of eight of the 10 most attended

NCAA wrestling duals of all time — all of which were located at the BJC.

The most attended BJC duals came in 2018 and 2023 when the blue and white took on the Hawkeyes. The attendance for those matches reached 15,998 fans, which exceeded the arena’s capacity.

Penn State has faced a plethora of top-tier competition at the BJC, facing Iowa four times, Ohio State three times, Michigan twice and Lehigh, Rutgers, Pitt, Wisconsin and Wyoming once each.

Since 2015, Penn State is 11-0 at the BJC. The Big Ten matches draw eyes to not just Penn State, but to collegiate wrestling as well.

The Bryce Jordan Center has helped bring more eyes to the program compared to the squad’s usual home at Rec Hall. Rec Hall has a maximum capacity of 6,502, while the BJC has a maximum capacity of 15,261.

This allows for more of the State College community to watch Penn State wrestling in person and learn more about the sport, which has benefited Sanderson’s program.

Since Sanderson’s first match at the BJC, the Nittany Lions have won nine of 11 national championships.

Here are some of the squad’s top moments at the BJC.

Jan. 27, 2023: No. 1 Penn State defeats No. 2 Iowa

The 10-0 Nittany Lions took down the undefeated Hawkeyes 23-14 in the most attended BJC match ever. Close to 16,000 strong watched Penn State handle Iowa to improve to 11-0.


Dec. 8, 2013: No. 2 Penn State defeats No. 11 Pitt

In Sanderson’s first matchup at the BJC, his squad pulled through with a 28-9 victory over Pitt.

The win was the first time Sanderson’s group wrestled at the BJC and marked the start of an annual tradition of having at least one match there every season.

Dec. 6, 1996: No. 8 Penn State defeats No. 1 Iowa

In its first-ever match at



the Bryce Jordan Center, the blue and white secured a 22-15 victory.

Not only did it get a win, but it earned a major upset over the No.1 team in the country.

While Penn State didn’t return

to the BJC until 2013, this was a landmark dual that led to Penn State competing at a much larger arena years later.

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‘SO MUCH TRAUMA’

Penn State students grapple with loss amid wildfires

By Annelise Hanson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ongoing wildfires in the Los Angeles area are leaving deep scars as communities struggle to cope with the overwhelming loss of homes and livelihoods.

Penn State students with ties to the region feel the impact of the destruction, with immediate devastation and the long-term environmental and economic challenges ahead.

Theo Newbold, a fourth-year doctoral student studying plant pathology, lived in Altadena, California, from age 5 until heading to college.

Newbold’s grandmother moved to Altadena in the late 1970s because it was a safe community for Black, brown and multiracial families at the time. Their mother continued to live in the family home, working locally and maintaining community ties.

“Our home burned down ... my entire city is gone, along with the homes of most of my friends and people that I’ve known for more than 20 years,” Newbold said. “My mother is now homeless. She’s staying with a family friend, but ... we’re really worried because the cost of renting in the area is astronomical.”

Newbold was in Pennsylvania during the wildfires that destroyed their family home. They plan to return home this week to support their family in person.

Wildfires have long been a natural part of California’s ecosystem, but climate change has exacerbated its intensity.

“Altadena has seen fires before, but these recent ones were devastating,” Newbold said, pointing to unprecedented



Jae C. Hong/AP

A couple rakes through the remains of their home in the aftermath of the Palisades Fire in Malibu, California.

70 mph winds. “There’s this complicated emotion; you expect fires, but not this level of destruction.”

Looking ahead, Newbold worries about gentrification in the Altadena area.

“Without financial support, many families, including mine, may not be able to rebuild,” they said. “Developers could swoop in, turning Altadena into something unrecognizable.”

Still, Newbold holds onto hope that the community will come together to preserve its character and support vulnerable members.

Cyndi Goldstein is from Redondo Beach, about 30 minutes away from Pacific Palisades, California.

“Every year, we always have wildfires. My high school had to cancel outdoor sports because of ash, but this year was a lot different,” Goldstein, a second-year student studying security and risk analysis, said. “It has affected way more people. My

aunt’s house burned down. I have so many friends that went to high school in the Palisades, and they all lost their homes.”

Goldstein saw a shocking amount of smoke fill the air, despite not being in the immediate area of the fires.

“You can’t even go outside because it’s so foggy,” she said. “Even though I’m 30 minutes away, I can walk down my street and look into the horizon and just see all the smoke, so it’s definitely the worst it’s ever been this year.”

Goldstein’s aunt, who lived in Altadena, evacuated her home before it burned down.

“She started packing up her car, and all her neighbors were like, ‘What are you doing? We’re gonna be fine,’” Goldstein said. “She just grabbed as much stuff as she could, and then an hour later, the entire street started burning down. Thank God she got out of there in time.”

Goldstein also mentioned the economic toll of the fires, with

people losing their jobs due to the thousands of establishments burned down.

“This is definitely a wake-up call for people. The areas where these fires happen have them every year,” she said. “People are going to start rebuilding elsewhere, and there will be better protection, better insurance and more precautions taken. But this will have an impact on those areas, as they’ve literally burned to the ground.”

Goldstein said she knows people from a high school in the Pacific Palisades who will have to move to her area because they lost their homes in the fire.

“They have nowhere to go, and everyone is just taking in as many people as possible, donating stuff to help,” Goldstein said.

Juliet Schaub hails from Hermosa Beach, California, a coastal community located near Santa Monica and Laguna Beach. She describes her town as being “close, but not too close” to Los

Angeles — about a 20 minute drive from the city center and 30 minutes from the Palisades area.

Schaub noticed the physical effects of the wildfires from her community.

“Walking outside, the sun is orange, and the sky is completely gray. It smells like a campfire, almost like the air is burnt,” Schaub, a first-year studying advertising, said.

While schools remained open despite hazardous conditions Schaub said the air quality hit 200, even though they were supposed to shut down at 170. She had to pick up her younger brother from school due to the dangerous air.

“He has asthma,” Schaub said. “He couldn’t breathe.”

Schaub mentioned the devastation she saw while walking along the pier and seeing the fires firsthand.

“You could see everything engulfed in flames from a distance,” she said. “It was a visual representation of everyone being affected.”

Schaub also shared the personal toll of the fires on friends and family, including a family friend whose newly built home was destroyed.

“They have six kids and had just built a new house, and it was completely demolished. It’s heartbreaking,” Schaub said.

With local schools and businesses coming together to provide support, Schaub reflected on the resilience of Los Angeles residents.

“There’s so much trauma,” Schaub said. “I think it’s going to take three to five years for these communities, families and business owners to rebuild. So many families have lost everything.”

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ICE resources

By Claire Huss
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

President Donald Trump’s return to office has brought U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to cities across the country.

Part of the Trump Administration’s proclamation to “protect the states and the American people by closing the border to illegals” includes a promise to “take all necessary action to immediately repel, repatriate and remove illegal aliens across the southern border of the United States,” according to the White House fact sheet.

There have been at least 5,537 arrests across the country as of Wednesday night, according to ICE’s X account.

According to a 2024 study from the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and American Immigration Council, there are more than 408,000 undocumented college students in the United States. While ICE can raid outdoor areas, including college campuses, places of worship and playgrounds, buildings that require access, such as dormitories, are protected under the Fourth Amendment’s “unreasonable search and seizure” in private areas.

Know your rights

The Fifth Amendment grants individuals the right to remain silent and limit cooperation without a warrant. If an individual must say something, they should not be purposely evasive or dishonest, as it could further endanger them.

Additionally, requesting a lawyer before revealing information or signing documents is advised.

Although the situation is daunting, it’s recommended to remain calm and not run away when confronted by an ICE agent.

It’s also advised to document every detail of the interaction. Ask for names and badge numbers of ICE agents, record how many agents were present and if local law enforcement was present.

If someone is being detained, ask where they are being taken to inform attorneys and family members. The First Amendment also permits photographs and videos to be taken of people acting in a position of public office.

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) recommends undocumented people carry red cards, known as “tarjetas rojas,” as a reminder of the

rights that all people in the United States possess. Tarjetas rojas help people defend themselves when ICE acts unconstitutionally, according to the ILRC.

It’s only legal for ICE to detain people in a public area if they have an arrest warrant signed by a judge. The warrant would have a name, the address of the premises to be searched, the scope of the search and a time period in which the warrant can be executed. Otherwise, individuals are legally permitted to walk away from the interaction.

If stopped, ask the ICE officer whether you are being arrested or detained. You have the right to call a lawyer if arrested, as well as the right to refuse unlawful search without a warrant under the Fourth Amendment.

If ICE knocks on the door of your home or apartment, you are not obligated to open it. ICE is only allowed to enter with a valid judicial search or arrest warrant, which you should ask them to slip under the door or hold up to the window for your examination.

The United States Constitution protects all people, regardless of immigration status. Knowing constitutional protections can prevent potential violations of rights.

Resources

According to the university website, Penn State classifies any student without legal documentation, without inspection or with an expired visa as undocumented. The university does not require undocumented or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students to disclose their status when they apply to the university or once they are accepted.

“At this time, the university has received no indication of any ICE activity on any of our campuses. Students who have concerns are encouraged to contact Student Legal Services,” the university said in a statement.

Student Legal Services at Penn State can provide students with advice and representation on legal matters, including immigration. Students interested in getting legal representation on campus can fill out an online intake form or go to drop-in hours.

Additionally, Latino Caucus at Penn State has DACA student resources linked on its site, including alternative legal services in Centre County.

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Celebrating the Lunar New Year at Penn State

By Claire Huss
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Wednesday marks the celebration of the Lunar New Year, ringing in 2025 as the Year of the Snake. The Lunar New Year is celebrated across many Asian cultures on the first new moon in the calendar year.

Celebrations vary across different countries and regions, but the holiday is generally celebrated across multiple days with common traditions, like a big family meal.

Jing-Ting Dong, the president of the Penn State Fuzhou Student Association (FJSA), held a potluck dinner with the Hong Kong Student Association to replicate the large family dinners they might be missing out on.

“Usually, at this time, people will travel home to their families to eat with their loved ones,” Dong, a fourth-year studying cybersecurity analytics and operations, said. “But we recognize as college students, especially for international students or those far from home, it can be hard to do that.”

Dong founded FJSA as a way to connect with other Fuzhounese students living on the East Coast and to share their culture.

“Most Chinese Americans you see now are Fuzhounese,” Dong said. “We have our own dialect. We made our own unique culture when we immigrated here, which I feel like isn’t really represented in Asian American history.”

Dong remembers being a child watching his hardworking immigrant parents keep their restaurant open through Western holidays like Christmas, Thanksgiving and other federal holidays. But they always were together on Lunar New Year, he said.

“Chinese New Year is one of the times when I get to see my mom, dad, brothers, aunts, uncles, grandparents — it’s a surreal moment for me. It’s a time I cherish,” Dong said.

Agreeing with Dong’s fondness toward Lunar New Year, Linda Zhang said the holiday is comparable to how the West celebrates Christmas.

“The little traditions, like putting out little snack dishes, candles — it felt so magical as a kid,” Zhang, a graduate student

studying accounting, said.

Zhang serves as the historian and senior advisor for FJSA. She said the club sheds light on an underrepresented community.

“Jing-Ting emphasizes as president that it’s cool to be Fuzhounese,” Zhang said. “I don’t really see my cultural identity represented in mainstream media as much, and I wanted to be a part of this movement and give back to the community.”

She also mentioned other specific traditions celebrated during Lunar New Year that are commonly practiced in Fuzhounese culture.

“We write ‘chunlian,’ which are spring couplets or idioms written in calligraphy on red tape, hanging on doors to bring in good luck,” Zhang said “We eat ‘nian gao,’ which is a rice cake to bring higher fortune and prosperity to your family, and we get red envelopes with money in them from parents or older relatives.”

Khai Ta, a member of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA), said the organization brings Vietnamese culture to State College and gives international students a place that feels like home.

“I was born in Vietnam and moved here when I was a baby,” Ta, a first-year studying computer science, said. “VSA helps me connect with my people more and celebrate stuff we were introduced to as children by our families back in Vietnam.”

Tet, the Vietnamese celebration of Lunar New Year, welcomes the spring season as the most important holiday. Ta said the VSA celebration included many of the traditions he grew up with.

“During Tet in Vietnam, the streets are bustling. We tried to recreate this feeling by starting with a skit about the meaning of Tet, singing Vietnamese songs and doing three traditional dances,” Ta said. “First was a traditional lion dance, then a modernized boys dance and a traditional girls dance.”

Ta said they played other bonding games, like Family Feud and guessing games for prize baskets with Vietnamese snacks in them. He believes cultural organizations like VSA can make students less homesick.

“We want to provide a community to help get familiar with life here, to connect with people who speak the same language and grew up on the same traditions and culture,” Ta said.

Dong said he loves being part of the active and welcoming Asian American community at Penn State.

“Culture is something that should be shared and not gatekept,” Dong said. “Family can be anywhere; it doesn’t have to be exactly your skin color or a culture you grew up with. I think that’s what makes college so great.”

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Courtesy of Joe Zheng

Penn State students celebrate Lunar New Year. 2025 will be the Year of the Snake.

‘FEELS LIKE YOU’RE FLYING’

Sled hockey classic gives Max Malec a home at Penn State

By Megan Miller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Max Malec has visited Penn State since he was a kid. On Sunday, he took the ice at Pegula Ice Arena for the third time in the Sled Hockey Classic.

The third annual Sled Hockey Classic between the State College Coyotes and the Penn State men’s hockey team was set to begin on Sunday. Penn State senior forward Dylan Lugris founded the Sled Hockey Classic to raise money for the Coyotes’ sled hockey program, increase membership and fund equipment.

This year’s classic had a stronger meaning for Malec, 18, from Roaring Brook Township, Pennsylvania, because he signed his

commitment to Penn State’s Adaptive Athletics program before he took the ice.

“Penn State has been in my life, ever since I was in diapers, you know, straight out of the womb,” Malec said.

Malec was born with spina bifida, a condition that paralyzes him from the waist down. He’s been playing sled hockey since he was 11.

“Being able to get involved with the sled hockey program here and now, being friends with those guys on that men’s team and call them my friends,” Malec said, “it’s an honor, it’s a blessing, and I’m super fortunate, and I wouldn’t change it for the world.”

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Megan Miller/Collegian

Malec looks over the ice from above the rink before the Sled Hockey Classic on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025.



Megan Miller/Collegian

Malec wears No. 16 because of his favorite sled hockey player, Declan Farmer, who shares the same number.



Megan Miller/Collegian

Mike Malec, Max’s father, helps Max get into his sled before warmups. “My dad went to Penn State Harrisburg, he was an athlete and played football, so he introduced me to Penn State football,” Malec said. “Seeing Beaver Stadium, a White Out, the crowd and the overall atmosphere at such a young age, you’re kinda hooked.”



Megan Miller/Collegian

Malec signs his commitment to the Penn State Adaptive Athletics program before the Sled Hockey Classic.



Megan Miller/Collegian

Malec controls the puck during the Sled Hockey Classic. He was 11 years old when he first tried sled hockey. “It was unbelievable ‘cause it’s so freeing. You get out of your wheelchair, and for people who are amputees, you get free of your prosthetics, and it feels like you’re flying when you’re skating. It’s an unbelievable feeling, especially for the first time.”



Megan Miller/Collegian

Malec shakes hands with members of the Penn State men’s hockey team after the Sled Hockey Classic between the State College Coyotes and Penn State men’s hockey team. The Coyotes beat the Nittany Lions 3-2.

Kakuro

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

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Sudoku

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Word Search

World Lakes

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Geneva
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Kivu
Klamath

Lomond
Louise
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Across

1 Junk E-mail
5 Trans-Siberian Railroad city
9 Wood sorrels
13 Olympic rings, e.g.
14 Touched clumsily
16 Mud dauber, e.g.
17 Distinctive flair
18 Beef on the hoof
19 Oscar winner Jannings
20 Misfits
22 Aragon appetizers
24 Cruise ship captain’s announcement, briefly
25 Cavalry weapon
27 Mug for Attila
29 Myrna of “The Thin Man”
32 Smidgen
33 Whiskey cocktail
34 Long-legged shorebird
36 Pink lady ingredient
37 Caspian Sea feeder
41 Yucatán natives
42 Winery sight
43 Nero’s instrument
44 Amorphous mass
45 Plea at sea
46 Choice word
47 From square one
49 Common Market

Down

1 Musher’s transport
2 Sport with mallets
3 Ice cream thickener
4 Order members
5 Wife of Saturn
6 Tangled in a dense mass
7 Affirm
8 Castle part
9 Have a tab
10 Bedouin’s mount
11 Line to the audience
12 Water balloon sound

15 Mythical creature
21 Fills up
23 Old French coin
26 Cave dweller
28 Noise, in Paris
29 Souvlaki meat
30 Like an oxeye window
31 It’s used to walk the dog
33 Take a load off
35 Junto
36 Argon
38 Stadium sounds
39 Work without ____ (be daring)
40 Small brightly colored Australasian parrot
42 Solemn promise
43 Hard to please
45 Battered down
46 Aquarium denizen
48 Insect egg
49 Breadwinner
51 Skein formers
52 Incendiarism
53 Pine exudation
54 Neutral shade
55 Pago Pago’s place
58 Exhausted
60 Camp beds
61 Napkin ring
62 Very, in Versailles
64 Flamenco cheer
66 Asian honorific

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MY VIEW | JADZIA SANTIAGO

So, you hate your friend's partner?

Editor's note: This advice doesn't apply if your friend's partner is abusive in any way. If you or a friend are in an abusive relationship, there are resources available.

Santiago

OK, maybe "hate" is a strong word. Maybe it's more of a dislike. Perhaps you think your friend could do better. Maybe said partner doesn't treat your friend well, and you're fed up with their behavior. Or maybe, you think they're a no-good, dirty, rotten, irredeemable jerk who's attached to your friend like a leech, and you're tempted to punt them into the sun every time you see their face, which is way too often. Deep breaths. Now that we're adults, a good chunk of us will experience this at least once, whether we watch our friends date (cough) losers (cough), or we're the friend dating said loser. As someone who's been in

both situations, I know it's hard to hide your frustration. Sometimes, you just can't stop the horrifying visions of yourself all dressed up at your friend's wedding to this buffoon, trying not to scream as the officiant tells you to "speak now, or forever hold your peace." If you hadn't thought about that before, I'm sorry I just put that image in your head. Sometimes, that "peace" isn't something you can hold for long. But what do you do when grabbing your friend by the shoulders and yelling, "LEAVE THEM!" or feeding their partner to a grizzly bear (kidding) isn't an option? You really aren't going to like what I'm about to say next. The answer is nothing. Well, not exactly. Something I've come to understand is you can't let your annoyance with your friend's partner dictate your course of action. Before you do anything, you might need to change your motivation for doing it. If it's to eliminate your discomfort — so you don't have to hear about or witness said partner's antics or affection, or even

just see their face again — it's for the wrong reasons. As rough as this may be, it's not about you. And if you act like it is, you're going to mess this up. Speaking from experience on both ends, telling your friend to leave their partner or how much they suck won't be productive. More often than not, it'll do the exact opposite of what you're trying to do. Any action needs to come from love for your friend. You've got to dislike their partner because they make your friend feel upset, unloved or disrespected. Think righteous anger, not annoyance. Maybe you're there already, but it's OK to admit it if you're not. I certainly wasn't for a while. Next, I need you to realize your friend needs to come to whatever conclusion you hope for on their own. Love makes fools out of us, and it's useless to fight that. However, that doesn't mean you can't help your friend. How do you do that? You love your friend better than their partner does.

That's why I told you to do nothing, because if this partner really is a loser, you're probably doing that already. When I was dating losers and jerks, I had extremely low self-esteem. I thought that planning all my own dates (at best) and dealing with emotional violence (at worst) was the love I deserved. My friends might laugh at me talking about this like it wasn't embarrassingly recent. But that's the key here: My friends. They dealt with my rants about the nastiness I was subjected to, and when it came time, they told me the hard truth. They made sure I wasn't in danger and were there to support me in whatever decision I made, even if it went against their advice. Above all, they made it clear that they wanted to be around me because I was worth being around, and loved me because I was worth loving. And eventually, I left. That's what I need you to do. Stick by your friend, because at the end of the day, life might surprise you. I've met many lousy partners

that proved themselves later, and I've met some that stayed lousy, and likely would've remained so down the aisle. In that case, you know what I would do? When the officiant says, "Speak now or forever hold your peace," I would white-knuckle said peace for the rest of my life. Because if I let it go, I can't turn it into something new. Ultimately, your friend might stay with their partner. At that point, you have to trust they're making the decision they think is best. But if it gives you hope, it might just go the other way. It's possible that one day you'll be talking with your friend after the breakup, and when their ex comes up, your friend will say the same thing I said a few weeks ago: "Oh my God, why didn't you tell me?"

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Cartoon by Ethan Capitano

MY VIEW | KAHLIE WRAY

The art of saying goodbye: For a semester abroad, or anywhere

Sangster International Airport saw yet again a teary-eyed Kahlie trying not to collapse in grief last weekend. While I tried to fight back tears, my mother butchered "Don't Cry For Me Argentina," and my grandmother looked at us with glee in her eyes. This is standard procedure for the three of us. My mother doesn't care we're in the middle of a busy airport with foreign eyes on her — she'll put on a show if it means I'll crack a smile. My grandmother will make wild suggestions, and I'll laugh, but mostly I'll take deep breaths and try to be as strong as the women before me. I fail every time. The truth is, I don't know how to see goodbye as anything less than permanent. While they're certain we'll meet again in Sangster in one year and it'll be like I never left, I struggle to be as optimistic. The rational part of me understands these goodbyes aren't as permanent as they

seem. After all, I said "bye" in January 2024 and then again in January 2025. On the other hand, I'm reckoning with the reality that I did bid my Mama a permanent goodbye last January. Who she was — who I was — last January is completely different from who we are today. And when I do see them again, I'll have transformed into a whole other version of myself. So on that note, these farewells were permanent. I'll never be 19 again, waving farewell to my mother. The next time I see her, I'll be older, taller, and heavier, and she'll be different as well. When I bid Penn State adieu last semester with the knowledge I'd spend spring abroad, Beaver Stadium was fully intact and the Susan Welch Liberal Arts Building wasn't yet open to the public. This fall, I'll return to a different version of Penn State, and Happy Valley will

welcome a different version of me. So that farewell had some permanence as well. I'll never see the version of Penn State I said goodbye to ever again. This isn't only because of renovations, but also the undisputed fact that after a semester abroad I'll absolutely look at dear old State in a different light. Now, perhaps I'm just trying to find any reason to defend my inability to see any goodbye as temporary. Maybe I should take a page from my mother's book and spare the tears when it comes time to say goodbye. However, I also know as soon as I'm out of her sight and she feels like she no longer has to be strong for me, the tears rush from her eyes. Saying goodbye to anyone or anything even when you're 100% sure you'll see them or it again is hard. I'm not good at goodbyes

even after 19 years of practice. I find it's almost impossible to not feel the crushing emotional weight of the action. So here's my unsolicited advice to anyone preparing to say goodbye — do it however you know best. If that means crying like me, do so shamelessly. If you're more like my mother and you prefer to put on a brave front, don't let anyone call you a coward for that. Saying goodbye is difficult even if it isn't truly permanent. You deserve to approach it however you feel best. Next week, I'll bid the U.S. farewell in favor of Czechia. Trust I'll be teary-eyed on the flight to Vienna, and I won't care if the random person seated beside me looks at me funny. I say goodbye with tears in my eyes, and that's my prerogative. **Kahlie Wray** is an abroad columnist and member of the DEI Committee. Her hometown is Montego Bay, Jamaica, and she's a second-year studying English and digital/print journalism. Email her at kaw6558@psu.edu and follow her on X @_wrageous.

"I'll take deep breaths and try to be as strong as the women before me."

Kahlie Wray
Abroad Columnist

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Lady Lions returns to Rec

By Noah Aberegg
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Home to 203 wins, six undefeated home records, six Atlantic 10 championships and two Big Ten championships, Rec Hall has seen a lot of history for the Penn State Lady Lions.

This historic arena has seen its fair share of highs and lows, from 1990-91's 29-2 season where the Lady Lions finished No. 1 in the AP Poll to 1975-76 when they broke even with a 10-10 record.

On Wednesday, the blue and white will return to Rec Hall for the second time since the team moved to the Bryce Jordan Center in January 1996 when it faced No. 14 Maryland.

"There's just so much history of winning in that building that you can't help but get excited," coach Carolyn Kieger said. "I know for our athletes, we get really excited to go back there and compete and wear the Lady Lion jersey in a place that has set the standard and set the tone for what Penn State Athletics is."

In Penn State's first return to Rec Hall last season, it fell to Ohio State, 82-69. Despite the loss, it put up a strong performance against the No. 2 team in the country.

The 13-point margin was made possible by the historic venue and its much closer, intimate setting

that holds 10,000 fewer seats than the Bryce Jordan Center.

"It's a smaller atmosphere, so you definitely feel the crowd more," Kieger said after last year's Return to Rec game. "This is a special place and the energy in here was insane. It was a pleasure playing here."

Despite moving out of Rec Hall 30 years ago, the same energy was brought game in and game out, providing a constant boost to the Lady Lions in the latter part of the 20th century.

"I can remember some games where we would go out early and shoot an hour before game time," Susan Robinson Fruchtl, the third-highest scorer in Penn State history, said. "When the doors open, you could hear them unlocking the old doors of Rec Hall, and you could hear the students running in the building and running down the bleachers to get the front row seats."

As game time approached, fans piled deep into the bleachers and sat so close to the action that they could trip the referees if they stuck their foot out.

In the old arena, Robinson Fruchtl loved all the noise that came from it, including the loud wooden bleachers that would shake and rattle as fans got rowdy.

"We thought it was the greatest thing because people were



Ilan Sherman/Collegian file photo

Members of the PSU women's basketball team listen to coach Rene Portland during practice in Rec Hall. The Lady Lions returned to Rec Hall to face Maryland on Jan. 29, 2025.

coming to see us and we wanted to give them a show," Robinson Fruchtl said. "We wanted to win for them. It was a special time."

Robinson Fruchtl's love for Rec Hall began the first time she stepped inside, realizing there was something different about the historic venue.

During her recruiting visit, the No. 16 Lady Lions hosted No. 5 Louisiana Tech in a battle of All-American point guards. Robinson Fruchtl said the venue was like day and night when the court lights turned on.

"It was loud, it was hot," Robinson Fruchtl said. "With the game lights, the lighting was different. When they came on, they were shining right on the court. It was almost like a spotlight situation."

After going 14-14 in Robinson Fruchtl's first season with the blue and white, the team echoed the mantra, "back on top in '90." That's exactly what the Lady Lions did, going 25-7 the following season.

That breakout campaign marked the beginning of Rec Hall's dominance during Robinson Fruchtl's time at Penn State, where the team went 52-4 at home.

"There was a pretty good number of home wins in Rec Hall," Jennifer James, a former Lady Lions manager and current asso-

ciate athletic director for events, said. "Most teams were glad to not have to go into Rec Hall."

During the winter months, practice was often interrupted by station wagon loads of children being dropped off to play ball in Rec Hall.

"Over Christmas break, the kids would just have their basketballs and come hang out in Rec all day," James said. "It wasn't truly open, and as managers, they would drive us crazy just running havoc."

As the 1989-90 season concluded, Penn State secured its fifth Atlantic 10 tournament championship in 10 years, winning the tournament in Rec Hall.

"We literally won and (Tanya Garner) climbed up on the basket," Robinson Fruchtl said. "They're cutting down the net and she's sitting on the basket itself - back on top in '90. All the blood, sweat and tears, and they turned it around and we got the team back to prominence."

Over the next two years, Robinson Fruchtl's class continued to succeed on the national stage, winning its second straight Atlantic 10 Tournament championship while being ranked No. 1 in the AP Poll.

As graduation gifts for the Class of 1994, James gave the players their name and number

with the letters and numbers that were used on the historic Rec Hall scoreboard.

"One of my favorite memories of Rec Hall was we had the old scoreboard where we had 12 or 14-inch letters. As a manager, one of our jobs was to put the roster up," James said. "So you put the number and last name, and then there was a column for points. Since I had a key to the cabinet, I gave them their gift."

Now 30 years later, Robinson Fruchtl still remembers the environment of Rec Hall, a place she called home for many years.

"I use the word electric," Robinson Fruchtl said. "You know, you walk in there, and you hear the sounds, and you just hear a lot of memories flood back."

With Wednesday's game on the horizon, Kieger eyes the same level of energy to help the Lady Lions against a strong Maryland team.

"We're a team that feeds off energy. We're a team that feeds off of juice," Kieger said. "We're really excited to bring that juice to the Rec Hall game against a great opponent and hopefully get a great crowd out there and use the momentum to favor us."

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Sienna Pinney/Collegian

The women's basketball team sings the alma mater after the Return to Rec Hall game against Ohio State on Feb. 22, 2024.



Megan Miller/Collegian

The Nittany Lions celebrate a goal during the second game of the Sled Hockey Classic between the State College Coyotes and the Penn State men's hockey team on Jan. 26, 2025.

Sledding into success

Penn State men's hockey's third annual Sled Hockey Classic raises over \$18,000

By Andrew Mercer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On a crisp Sunday morning in Happy Valley, the Penn State men's hockey team suited up for a different kind of stick and puck. This time, the Nittany Lions were mounted on sleds and armed with a pair of mini sticks, facing off against the premier sled hockey organization in State College.

After sweeping No. 9 Ohio State over the weekend, the Nittany Lions hosted the State College Coyotes in the third annual Sled Hockey Classic at Pegula Ice Arena.

Senior forward Dylan Lugris - who has organized the event for the past three years - continued to make sure that everyone involved had an important role to play in the day's festivities. While some of the team was on the ice battling for a victory, others were coaching, playing music, and operating the scoreboard.

Jimmy Dowd Jr. served as the announcer, Jason Gallucci was a referee and Blue-Haired Hogan served as the Coyotes' coach.

Lugris was named the 2024 Hockey Humanitarian for his efforts in organizing the Sled Hockey Classic. Since starting the event two years ago, Lugris and his teammates have raised over \$50,000 to help the Coyotes increase their size from ten players to forty.

"It means so much to me be-

cause everybody on our team had a job," Lugris said. "Everybody was involved in some part or another. Seeing the guys rally behind something like that is super special."

The Coyotes took an overtime victory last year for back-to-back wins over the Nittany Lions. Coach Guy Gadowsky scored the game-winning goal on a tipped shot that sailed past the goaltender.

The Coyotes split into two teams on Sunday - Team Blue and Team White - and battled in front of a packed Roar Zone.

"The turnout this year was incredible," Lugris said. "Seeing everybody in the upper deck of the Roar Zone and seeing everyone getting into it."

Team Blue took the opening game 4-2 despite a valiant effort and a late goal from Team White.

The Nittany Lions broke the ice first, as Alex Servagno was assisted by Casey Aman and Tyler Paquette with just over 15 minutes remaining in the game. Penn State combined for a second goal, as Servagno dropped the puck back to Paquette, who slid the puck under the sled of the Coyotes' goaltender to increase its lead to two.

State College struck back with 4:35 on the clock as Angel Guzman found himself in the slot and pushed the puck past the blocker of goaltender Jared Crespo.

With 1:25 remaining in the

game. DJ Wilson broke free on a breakaway and rifled a wrist shot over the glove of Crespo.

Similar to his shootout goals against Michigan State and Ohio State, Lugris scored in the second round.

The Coyotes answered back with a goal from Russell Strouse to tie the shootout 1-1. Angel Guzman sent Penn State packing with a game-winning goal as he shot the puck past Crespo's glove for his second goal of the day.

After the game - before the fans took to the ice alongside the team - Lugris announced to the Roar Zone that they raised over \$13,000 in their jersey auction alone. On top of that already impressive count, earlier in the morning an anonymous donor gave an extra \$5,000 to the cause to push the total funds gained to over \$18,000.

Lugris notably named Reese Laubach as his successor in running the event going forward - a passing of the torch to continue a charitable cause.

"Reese has been here since Day 1," Lugris said. "I couldn't think of a better guy to take over and continue this tradition. His family loves it. They're great people, so I have full confidence that he's going to do it right."

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Late-game woes

Men's basketball continues late-game struggles

By Will Horstman
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When Penn State entered its 2024-25 season, it was a new year with some new faces.

Despite those new aspects, the Nittany Lions have continued to be plagued by the same problem that's hindered them for years: Their inability to consistently close out games.

Before the season, coach Mike Rhoades spoke on building "sustainable success" at Penn State. However, after losing several winnable games, the first task to building that success has to be fixing the team's late-game struggles.

When Penn State loses, it's typically in a very cookie-cutter fashion. The Nittany Lions overcome a second-half deficit to come close to or retake the lead but make key mistakes when it matters most, leading to a loss.

The signs of the Nittany Lions' late-game struggles started against Clemson on Nov. 26, possibly hinting at what was to come in Big Ten play.

A layup by Ace Baldwin Jr. put Penn State down 69-66 with just under 1:30 to play. Failing to cash in a bucket for the rest of the game, the Nittany Lions lost, 75-67.

Despite that loss, Penn State soon defeated Purdue in a commanding way, showcasing the potential it had this season. However, the late-game issues quickly showed up just one game later.

The Nittany Lions had possession late while down 79-76 to Rutgers after making a run to get back into the game on Dec. 10, but Baldwin chose to shoot a poor look from deep, ending his squad's chances of winning.

A 6-0 run cut Penn State's deficit to 73-71 against Indiana on Jan. 5, but the team couldn't score when it mattered, falling 77-71.

A week later against Oregon on Jan. 12, the Nittany Lions led

69-61 with just over five minutes to play after facing a nine-point deficit earlier in the half. The Ducks climbed back, snatching the win away from Penn State, 82-81.

Just three days later on Jan. 15, the Nittany Lions kept hanging around Michigan State's lead before making a late push to cut the advantage to just four points. However, the Spartans held on for a 90-85 win.

Against Iowa on Jan. 24, the Nittany Lions used a late 7-0 run to get back into the game. Despite the momentum gained from that run, Penn State went scoreless for the final 53 seconds, as the Hawkeyes held on for a 76-75 win.

A few days later it was Deja Vu for the Nittany Lions. Penn State found itself down eight points to Michigan before making its push.

Rhoades' squad not only trimmed its deficit but gained a lead of its own, leading by as many as five as an impressive road win appeared evident.

However, that wasn't the case, as Penn State snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Michigan came back to win, 76-72, putting the blue and white's NCAA Tournament chances on serious life support.

The Nittany Lions may be 3-7 in conference play, but if they handled all of their late-game situations better, they could be 9-1, with the lone defeat being their blowout loss to Illinois.

While it's not realistic to think Penn State, or any team, should win every close game, if the team has legitimate tournament hopes, it needs to close out wins way more often than it is right now.

Rhoades building a successful team at Penn State was always going to take time. But if the Nittany Lions can't shake off their inability to consistently close out tight games, they might always be, at best, an average Power Five team.

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Built for the BJC

No. 1 Penn State wrestling set to host No. 2 Iowa in the Bryce Jordan Center

By Andrew Deal
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The next edition of the rivalry between No. 1 Penn State and No. 2 Iowa is set for 7 p.m. Friday in the Bryce Jordan Center.

This is just the fifth time the teams have met as the No. 1 and No. 2 squads in the NWCA Coaches Poll, with the Nittany Lions winning the two most recent matches under those circumstances.

125 pounds: No. 7 Luke Lilledahl (PSU) vs. No. 26 Joey Cruz (Iowa)

Luke Lilledahl is coming off the first loss of his collegiate career after falling to then-No. 19 Dean Peterson of Rutgers. However, coach Cael Sanderson expressed major confidence in Lilledahl's ability to bounce back.

"He's going to be perfectly OK, and whatever happens, win or lose, you gotta learn and take it and run with it," Sanderson said. "I think he'll do that, so he'll be good to go."

He'll take on another lower-ranked wrestler in Cruz, who's coming off the highest-ranked win of his career after defeating then-No. 16 Brendan McCrone of Ohio State.

Lilledahl, with the crowd behind him, will hold the advantage if he can bounce back after a one-point performance in his last showing.

133 pounds: No. 7 Braeden Davis (PSU) vs. No. 3 Drake Ayala (Iowa)

This is a match that's already happened, except it was at 125 pounds last season when Drake Ayala defeated Braeden Davis, 4-2.

Davis used his riding time to win his most recent match, 2-1,



Megan Miller/Collegian

Penn State's Carter Starocci prepares to wrestle Wyoming's Quayin Short, winning by fall 7-0 during Penn State's dual against Wyoming in the Bryce Jordan Center on Dec. 15, 2024.

while Ayala dealt with an injury against Ohio State and didn't participate.

Ayala has looked stronger in his first season at 133 pounds and could use that to his advantage against Davis on Friday.

141 pounds: No. 3 Beau Bartlett (PSU) vs. Ryder Block (Iowa)

The only ranked versus un-ranked matchup of the dual features Beau Bartlett, who holds the clear advantage.

Bartlett is coming off a ranked win against then-No. 14 Joey Olivieri, while Block was recently tech-falled by No. 1 Jesse Mendez.

With a clear favorite in Bartlett, this is Penn State's most lopsided matchup.

149 pounds: No. 4 Shayne Van Ness (PSU) vs. No. 2 Kyle Parco (Iowa)

This is another matchup that has some history. Shayne Van Ness defeated Kyle Parco in the 2023 national championship third-place match, 7-2, and also

came out victorious in the 2023 NWCA All-Star Classic against the Hawkeye star.

However, Parco has the ranking advantage in this matchup and is coming off a big 9-3 win over a top-10 opponent.

Van Ness responded to his loss against Nebraska's Ridge Lovett with pure dominance against Rutgers' Alex Nini, securing a tech-fall victory in a match in which he held full control.

The 149-pound match is the start of a run of top-five matches that will have real national championship implications.

157 pounds: No. 3 Tyler Kasak (PSU) vs. No. 1 Jacori Teemer (Iowa)

Tyler Kasak has flown under the radar as one of the best wrestlers in the Nittany Lions' lineup for multiple reasons. Not only is he surrounded by national champion favorites, but he had to earn his spot in the lineup against Alex Facundo.

Kasak will now have his biggest test of the season against Jacori Teemer, who recently returned from an injury and earned a 10-5 win over No. 17 Sammy Sasso to improve to 3-1.

The low number of matches this season has the potential to hurt Teemer against another high-ranked wrestler at 157 pounds.

165 pounds: No. 1 Mitchell Mesenbrink (PSU) vs. No. 2 Mikey Caliendo (Iowa)

A matchup that occurred three times last year will see its first battle of the 2024-25 season.

Mitchell Mesenbrink took all three matches last year, fairly dominantly, winning 12-6, 23-7 and 17-9.

With Mesenbrink wrestling like one of the best wrestlers in the country, it'll be hard for Mikey Caliendo to slow down the offensive onslaught that he brings.

This has a chance to be one of the higher-scoring matches of the night, as both wrestlers tend to put up major scores.

174 pounds: No. 2 Levi Haines (PSU) vs. No. 6 Patrick Kennedy (Iowa)

Levi Haines hasn't dropped a step since his loss to No. 1 Keegan O'Toole, while Patrick Kennedy just dropped his first match of the season.

Haines has consistently maintained control of his matches, despite the score not necessarily being high. After what could be the most energetic match of the night, this could be a lot more low-scoring, with neither wrestler wanting to give up any ground.

Haines has the experience deep into the postseason, which could loom large in this battle of high-ranked wrestlers.

184 pounds: No. 1 Carter Starocci (PSU) vs. No. 5 Gabe Arnold (Iowa)

While this match could bring the most eyes to the BJC following the back-and-forth exchange at 184 this week, it may not even be Carter Starocci versus Gabe Arnold.

Iowa has listed Arnold and Angelo Ferrari as potential wrestlers to face off against the four-time national champion.

Starocci's experience has prepared him to be ready for whoever he faces, even if one matchup holds more weight than the other. Arnold is coming off a sudden-victory win, while Starocci won by tech fall against his ranked opponent.

A match that will almost certainly have the crowd more involved than any other should bring more fireworks to the rivalry.

197 pounds: No. 4 Josh Barr (PSU) vs. No. 1 Stephen Buchanan (Iowa)

Josh Barr has climbed the rankings while putting on a show.

His most recent match was no shortage of that, as he put up an insane 22 points in the third period to win by tech fall.

Stephen Buchanan recently became the No. 1 wrestler at 197 pounds while also coming off a tech-fall victory.

Both wrestlers have shown dominance throughout the season, and despite there being a gap between the two in the rankings, it could play out as if they are the top two wrestlers in the weight class.

285 pounds: No. 2 Greg Kerkvliet (PSU) vs No. 11 Ben Kueter (Iowa)

This is the final match with his-tory, as Greg Kerkvliet took the lone win in last year's dual, 9-1.

Kerkvliet has continued his dominance from a season ago, and if it wasn't for Minnesota's Gable Steveson returning, he would be the top-ranked wrestler in the heavyweight class.

Kueter is coming off a top-10 victory, defeating then-No. 6 Nick Feldman 5-4, while Kerkvliet defeated then-No. 7 Yaraslau Slavikouski 2-0.

If this is the final match of the night, it could be a great match to end what will be one of the best duals of the season.

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MATCHUPS

WEIGHT	 IOWA HAWKEYES	 PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS
125	No. 26 Joey Cruz	No. 7 Luke Lilledahl
133	No. 3 Drake Ayala	No. 3 Braeden Davis
141	Ryder Block (NR)	No. 3 Beau Bartlett
149	No. 2 Kyle Parco	No. 4 Shayne Van Ness
157	No. 1 Jacori Teemer	No. 3 Tyler Kasak
165	No. 2 Mikey Caliendo	No. 1 Mitchell Mesenbrink
174	No. 6 Patrick Kennedy	No. 2 Levi Haines
184	No. 5 Gabe Arnold/Angelo Ferrari	No. 1 Carter Starocci
197	No. 1 Stephen Buchanan	No. 4 Josh Barr
285	No. 11 Ben Kueter	No. 2 Greg Kerkvliet