



# VERSUS

Vol. 125, No. 4

Friday, Sept. 20, 2024

@DailyCollegian

KENT STATE (0-3)  
GOLDEN FLASHES(2-0) PENN STATE  
NITTANY LIONS

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Sienna Pinney and Jackson Ranger

**“The most complete tight end in the country”**



# The tight end legacy

*Tyler Warren takes the reins as Penn State's next elite tight end*

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The long lineage of successful Penn State tight ends isn't stopping with Tyler Warren.

He's coming off of a career day against Bowling Green, where he tallied eight receptions for 146 yards, good for a single-game program record.

"It's very meaningful to have that title in a room that's had so many great tight ends. But like I've always said, it really just comes with being the best tight end I can be and making sure the offense is working as well as it can and that's kind of how it worked out that week," Warren said. "So I was very honored to be able to do something like that, but I was more happy

we came out

with that win in a tough game."

With a group of NFL tight ends before him, Warren had to wait his turn to be in the spotlight.

The senior was held out of the No. 1 role by guys like Pat Freiermuth, Theo Johnson and Brenton Strange. Despite waiting to be in the limelight, Warren benefited from sitting behind the trio of NFL players and learned from them, taking the lessons and passing them down to the younger guys.

"I'm still in contact with all those guys, and they're still helping me," Warren said. "It kind of just keeps recycling down through who's helping who, and who's the older guy next. So it's fun to be in that older guy role and be able to help these guys, because they'll be doing it for new guys pretty soon here down

the road."

One of those younger guys is freshman Luke Reynolds, but he's set to contribute sooner rather than later. After seeing a sizable role through the first two games, Reynolds was given the green light to burn his redshirt, James Franklin said on Monday.

"He showed up on campus — He was very driven and motivated to play — that is both mentally and physically. Was willing to do things necessary to play; attack the weight room, attack summer workouts, attack the play-book," Franklin said. "Has the ability to make plays in the passing game, which is somewhat unusual in 2024 for a tight end as he'll also stick his nose in there."

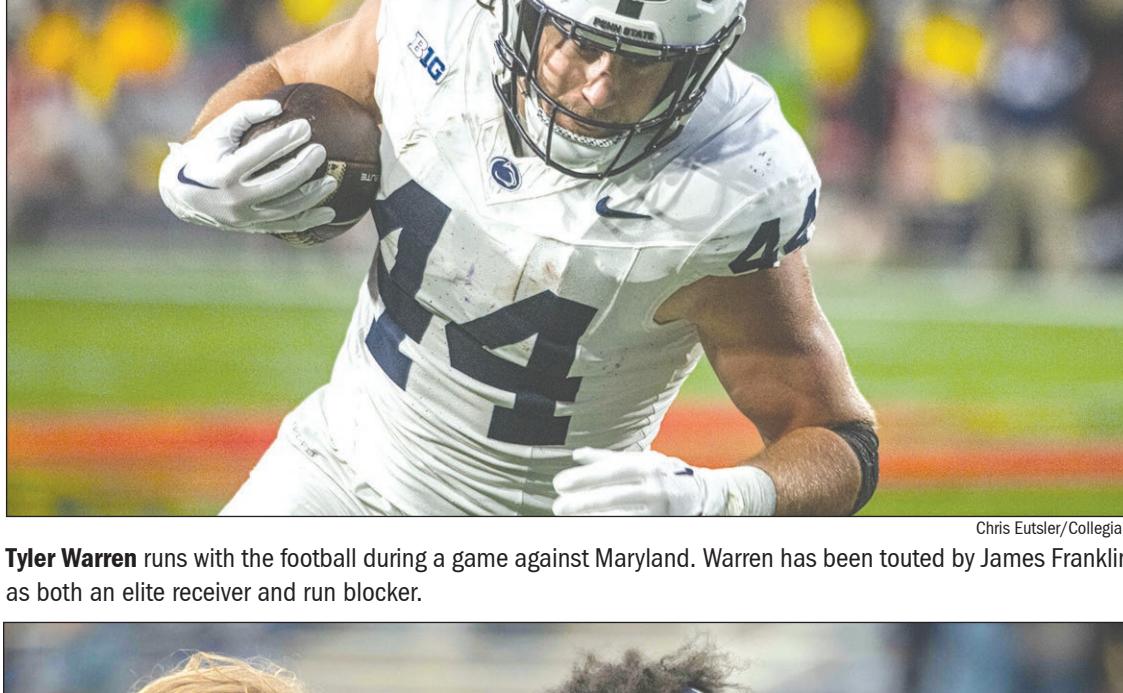
Reynolds and Warren were high school quarterbacks who made the transition to tight end as their football careers evolved, but Warren said Reynolds came in "very far ahead" compared to tight ends he's been around at Penn State, including himself.

With Andrew Rappleyea out with a "long-term injury" and Khalil Dinkins slowly working his way back into the mix, Reynolds is poised for an expanded role alongside the veteran Warren.

"I think his mental approach, his maturity that he's coming with at his young age, is really impressive. And I think that's kind of his biggest thing," Warren said. "He's a very good tight end already, for a young guy, but he can keep getting better."

**"It's fun to be in that older guy role and be able to help these guys."**

Tyler Warren  
Tight end



Tyler Warren runs with the football during a game against Maryland. Warren has been touted by James Franklin as both an elite receiver and run blocker.



Tyler Warren (left) locks arms with fellow tight ends Jerry Cross (center) and Khalil Dinkins (right) during Penn State's alma mater.

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# Drew Allar keeps improving on bye

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In 2023, Penn State's bye week came in Week 6, three weeks earlier than the first bye week this season.

Despite an earlier week off, the quarterback was indifferent to the change.

"I guess I don't have an opinion on it. It's just on the schedule, so do whatever's on the schedule. It doesn't really affect me that much," Allar said. "I think for some guys, it was probably good just to get their body back 100%, but for me personally, I approached it like a normal week."

While he treated the time off like usual, it gave him time to analyze the film and determine what he did well and what needs to be improved as the team heads to its last nonconference game.

Through the 2-0 start, Allar has stressed "trusting" his footwork and progressions as he reads the defense to get the ball to his weapons.

"It was a lot more self scouting and just watching my performances and practices throughout the first two weeks of the season and last week's practices, but for me personally, it was just another

opportunity to get better and perfect my craft and just keep improving on a daily basis," Allar said.

Through two games the junior is 24-for-37 on passing attempts for 420 yards, five touchdowns and an interception. He added 13 carries for 51 yards, including a five-yard touchdown plunge against Bowling Green and an emphatic stiff arm on West Virginia linebacker Josiah Trotter.

Allar emphasized during the offseason that he feels much more comfortable in the offense in his second year starting. As a captain and a large factor in the offensive success for Penn State, his production is key, and so far he's answered the call.

"It speaks to his preparation and how he carries himself, and a lot of that is on him putting in the work before the season and before we do all the stuff on the field is kind of where he gets his comfort building confidence," Tyler Warren said. "And then as an offense, it's really just us getting reps with him and being comfortable with the game plan and going through it all week and building the relationships in spring and fall camp."

Another area Allar has im-



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**Penn State quarterback Drew Allar** celebrates after scoring a rushing touchdown at the THON Game against Bowling Green on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pa.

proved on is his average depth of target, which is 4.5 yards deeper than it was last season.

Warren said it helped the offense in its "commitment to the explosive play," which is a drastic improvement compared to last year. Through two games, Penn State leads the country in 15-plus yard pass plays at 34.21%.

Allar credits the wide receivers and play calling by Andy Kotelnicki for the improvement, giving him the chance to put the ball in his playmakers hands.

"It's a credit to coach K and the offensive staff, getting the primaries open for me when we're taking those shots, so then I'm able to take those shots down the field,"

Allar said. "Everybody's involved in that. It's not just me, intentionally being about that. It's the receivers, running everything. It's a go ball, and then when they get that chance, they're really taking advantage of the opportunities."

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## PENN STATE FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

By Lexie Linderman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following Penn State's first bye week of the season, the 2-0 Nittany Lions are back in action as they prepare to take on Kent State on Saturday.

In anticipation of the matchup, James Franklin met with the media following practice to discuss the status of the safety room and more.

### Safety status

After leaving the blue and white's tilt with Bowling Green in the second quarter, Franklin confirmed star safety Kevin Winston Jr. has a "long-term" injury.

Winston's injury has a few notable impacts for the Nittany Lions, including the depth. However, Franklin made sure to express his unwavering confidence in the rest of his safeties, especially freshman Dejuan Lane.

"I think we've talked a decent amount about Lane, so that'll have a huge impact on him and the reps that he's getting and

where he's at," Franklin said. "Then we're trying to kind of figure out that next guy right now, so tons of guys that are going to get some opportunities."

Another ramification of Winston's absence is the role of Jaylen Reed. With Winston on the field, Reed was playing the lion position, but when Winston was sidelined in Week 2, Reed went back to playing high while Cam Miller took on the lion role.

"It was a great position for (Reed), but we may not have the flexibility to do it," Franklin said. "I think early on you're probably going to see him high, but hopefully as the year goes on we can move him back to that spot."

As for his confidence in Miller at the lion, Franklin said it's "nothing new" for Miller, who has "been doing that."

Zakee Wheatley is another Nittany Lion whose role will "dramatically increase" with Winston out, but Franklin has no doubts Wheatley has what it takes to be a playmaker for Penn State's defense.

"I think we've always had a lot of confidence in him, and he continues to get better," Franklin said. "We feel fortunate that we got two guys that have played a ton of football for us and played at a really, really high level, but we're gonna have to develop more depth as this thing goes on."

### Offensive developments

Penn State's offense has looked significantly more explosive than it did in 2023, and Franklin said Drew Allar's comfortability and improvements have had an impact on the Nittany Lions' success.

Franklin also touched on the offensive line, specifically Drew Shelton and Nolan Rucci, who have both impressed the veteran coach so far this season.

"(Shelton) has been playing (left tackle) for a long time, and we think he's playing well. We expect him to play well," Franklin said. "Then Rucci is a guy we're trying to continue to develop depth, and that's at right tackle, that's at left tackle ... we want to

continue to get Rucci involved as much as we can."

Nick Dawkins, who was named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team Tuesday, received high praise from his coach for both his play on the field and his dedication to service off the gridiron.

"He's very articulate, he's very ambitious. He's also extremely charismatic, one of the most charismatic guys I've ever been around," Franklin said. "In the day and age of the transfer portal, where guys typically don't wait around, he's waited all this time to be a starter, and right now he's playing really well. It's very important to him, and I just think he's one of these guys that really has maximized his Penn State experience."

Franklin even joked that people call Dawkins the "mayor of State College" and he wouldn't be surprised if the center was a future state governor.

### Transformative tight ends

With Andrew Rappleyea out with a long-term injury, Khalil

Dinkins' return to the field came at the right time for Franklin and Co.

"I think he's got a chance to be a real weapon for us. We lost him for a good portion of camp, so to be able to get him back is really important, especially with losing Rap," Franklin said. "I expect him to have a big time impact on both the pass and run game."

Franklin even compared Dinkins to Tyler Warren, who Franklin once again referred to as the "most complete tight end in college football."

"When I look at Khalil, he's another guy that, when he's on the field, they can't put him into a box and say, This guy's the receiving tight end and this guy's the blocking tight end," Franklin said. "That's when tight ends are most valuable when defensive coordinators get headaches about them. I'm very, very proud of our tight end room development."

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## KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

## FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	20	Josh Baka	S/Jr.	38	Clinton Robinson	S/Fr.	69	Braylon Smith	OL/So.
0	Luke Floriea	WR/Sr.	20	Marques Hicks	RB/So.	39	Tyler Bivens	DB/Jr.	70	Chris Farrell	OL/So.
1	Alex Branch	S/Sr.	21	X Cokley	CB/Sr.	41	Gus Goodell	LS/Sr.	71	Kevin Toth	OL/Sr.
2	Chrishon McCray	CB/Sr.	21	Cade Walford	RB/Fr.	42	Zadan Abuhamdeh	LB/Jr.	72	Cecil Wilson	OL/Sr.
3	Ky Thomas	RB/Sr.	22	Dashawn Martin	WR/Fr.	43	Nylan Brown	LB/Fr.	73	Jimto Obidegwu	OL/Jr.
4	Rocco Nicholl	LB/Jr.	22	Jaire Rawlinson	CB/Fr.	44	Charlie Skehan	TE/Sr.	75	Andrew Page	OL/So.
5	Gavin Garcia	RB/Jr.	23	Preston Hopperton	WR/Fr.	45	Mason Woods	LB/Jr.	76	Garrett Masterson	OL/Jr.
6	Stephen Daley	DL/Jr.	23	Naim Muhammed	CB/Sr.	46	Aaron Hopkins	TE/Sr.	77	Cameron Golden	OL/Sr.
7	Matt Harmon	LB/Sr.	24	Curtis Douglas	RB/So.	46	Nathan Tiger	K/Fr.	80	Stanley King	WR/Sr.
8	Khalib Johns	LB/Sr.	24	Nicholas Giacalone	LB/Sr.	47	Will Hryszko	K/Jr.	81	Dash Dorse	WR/Sr.
10	Jett Hilding	QB/Fr.	25	Daeveon Buie	S/Sr.	48	Lem Reynolds	LB/Fr.	82	Wayne Harris	WR/Pr.
11	Canaan Williams	LB/So.	25	Jay Jay Etheridge	WR/Fr.	49	Tommy Newcomb	K/Fr.	83	Payton Faulkner	TE/So.
11	Kameron Olds	DE/Jr.	26	<b>J.B. Awolowo</b>	WR/Sr.	50	Garrett Dial	DL/Fr.	84	Jahzae Kimbrough	WR/So.
11	JD Sherrod	QB/Fr.	26	CJ Young	S/So.	51	Sayed Abuhamdeh	LB/So.	85	Sebastian Brown	TE/Pr.
12	Joel Boamah	CB/So.	27	Malcolm Folk	DB/Jr.	52	Aiden Burgess	DL/Pr.	86	Jared Kelley	WR/So.
12	Drew DeShields	QB/So.	27	Lesae Lacks	WR/So.	53	Kaden Beatty	DL/So.	87	Dakota Taylor	TE/Pr.
13	Ardell Banks	WR/Fr.	28	Brody Bishop	S/Fr.	55	Bryce Sisak	DL/So.	88	Mohammed Hazime	TE/Jr.
13	Tevin Tucker	LB/Sr.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	56	Keenan Landry	DL/Jr.	89	Conner Muldowney	TE/Sr.
14	Oliver Billotte	S/So.	30	Troy Martin	DB/Jr.	57	Zaid Hamdan	DL/Sr.	90	Mason Maddox	DL/So.
14	Tommy Ulatowski	DL/Jr.	31	Noah Earley	S/Fr.	57	Name	Position/Elig.	92	Josue Cordoba	DL/Pr.
15	Dallas Branch	CB/Sr.	32	Jayden Studio	LB/Pr.	58	Dustyn Morell	OL/Jr.	93	Jaihien Roy	DL/Pr.
15	Devon Kargman	QB/Jr.	33	Martell Buchanan	S/Fr.	60	Robert Atha	SN/Pr.	94	Joel Miasek	K/So.
17	Matthews Carroll	DL/Sr.	33	Ayden Harris	RB/Pr.	61	Andrew Glass	K/Sr.	95	Antoine Campbell Jr.	DL/Jr.
17	Ruel Tomlinson	QB/Fr.	34	Micquan Gravely	RB/Pr.	62	Charlie Durkin	K/P/Jr.	96	Josh Smith	P/Sr.
18	Hunter Hopperton	TE/Jr.	35	Joseph Federer	WR/Pr.	63	Jaxon Dunn	OL/Fr.	97	Lavell Gibson	DL/Sr.
18	Terrell Miller	CB/Sr.	35	Jordan Lowe	RB/Sr.	65	Tony Georges	OL/Sr.	98	Bryce Faulk	DL/So.
19	Jaylen Dotson	DB/Jr.	36	Nick Cova	S/So.	66	Tristen Bittner	OL/Jr.			
19	Ali Fisher	WR/Jr.	37	Will Cook	TE/Jr.	68	Elijah Williams	OL/Fr.			
							Antonio Bottiggi	DL/Fr.			



## PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

## FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Dominic DeLuca	LB/Jr.	18	Joey Schlaffer	TE/Pr.	42	Mason Robinson	DE/Fr.	74	J'ven Williams	OL/Pr.
1	Jaylen Reed	S/Sr.	18	Max Granville	DE/Pr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Sr.	75	Matt Detisch	OL/So.
2	Liam Clifford	WR/Jr.	19	Josiah Brown	WR/Pr.	44	Jaylen Harvey	DE/Pr.	76	Mason Carlan	OL/Sr.
2	Kevin Winston Jr.	S/Jr.	19	Jack Lambert	QB/Pr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Sr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Sr.
3</											



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# Playing to 'the standard'

*Penn State's defense is looking to be dominant on Saturday*

By Avery Hill  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following Penn State's close game to Bowling Green, defensive players emphasized they didn't play to "the standard." The Nittany Lions gave up 121 yards on the ground in the contest.

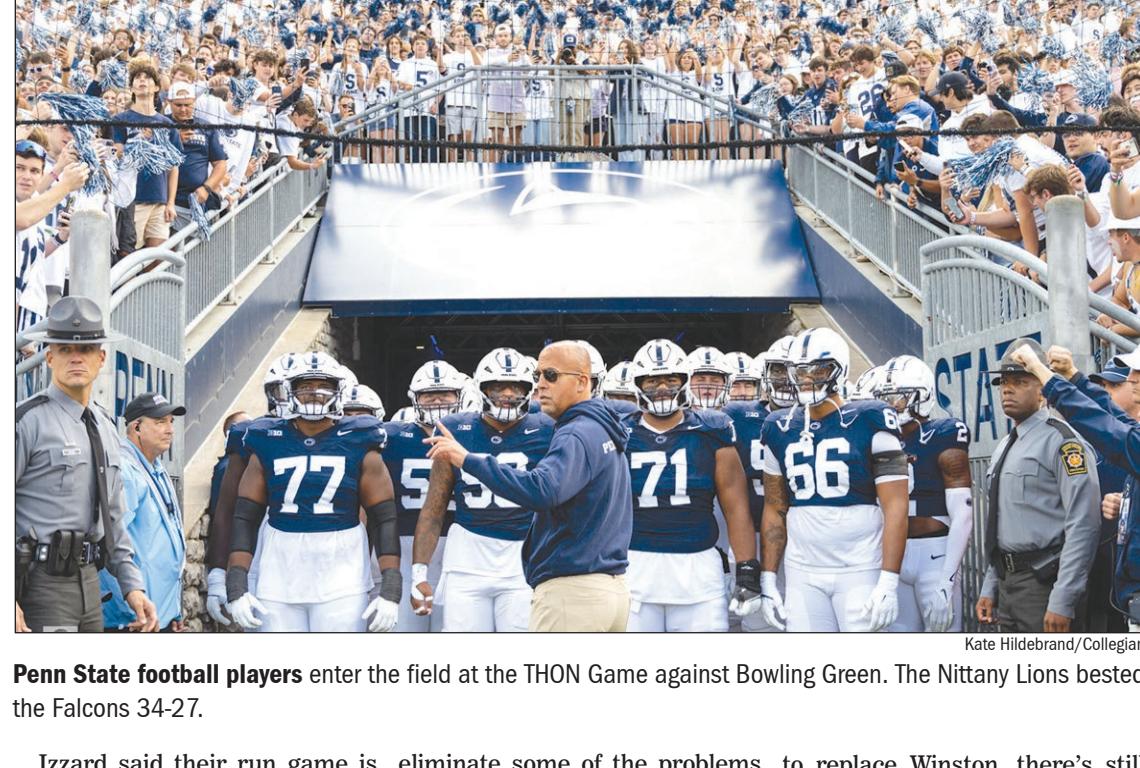
After getting the week off, Penn State is looking to improve its defense and get back on track. Headed into the 3:30 matchup with Kent State, the Nittany Lions' defensive players spoke on the improvements they're looking to make.

Throughout the game, Penn State surrendered explosive plays, with each of Bowling Green's top three runners registering runs of over 13 yards. The same is true for the receiving totals.

Defensive tackle Coziah Izzard highlighted moments where players were out of their gaps and getting knocked back at the line of scrimmage as a factor. The Nittany Lions are looking to change that.

"There's a chip on our shoulder," Izzard said. "(We're) trying to make sure we come out here Saturday."

Kent State averages 54.3 rushing yards per game, so it'll be a much less daunting task for Penn State to take care of. At the top is Ky Thomas, who averages just 2.5 yards per carry.



**Penn State football players** enter the field at the THON Game against Bowling Green. The Nittany Lions bested the Falcons 34-27.

Izzard said their run game is "pretty decent," but added it's nothing Penn State can't handle.

Linebacker Tyler Elsdon also chimed in, saying the defense's mistakes were "controllable" in the first half.

"We were a very confident defense and we know exactly where our identity is," Elsdon said. "Moving forward, we'd love to

eliminate some of the problems we had in the first half of Bowling Green. We have a great opportunity this coming weekend to prove that."

While the Golden Flashes' passing offense isn't much better, James Franklin announced Kevin Winston Jr. will be out with a "long-term" injury.

Though DeJuan Lane is in line

to replace Winston, there's still a lack of depth in the defensive backfield, causing concern.

Going into the season, the defense received tons of buzz after a 2023 campaign that landed them as one of the top defenses in the country.

The one factor often excluded, though, is the change in defense. It hasn't been much of a concern,

as Tom Allen has a reputable record as a defensive coach.

Allen brought the 4-2-5 defense and Lion position to Happy Valley, forcing players to adjust to new roles and emphasize versatility. With that, Elsdon said the defense is "continuously on the rise," suggesting an improved defense come Saturday.

"Going into our third game for this coming weekend, after a bye, I'm super excited," Elsdon said. "Defense is mainly about chemistry and culture, just being on the field playing as one unit, and we definitely have that with (Allen)."

The culture Elsdon alluded to is one that cornerback Cam Miller called the "No. 1 defense in the country."

For Penn State's defense, the standard is clear. Izzard added even more perspective to the defense's expectations, saying 50 yards or fewer in the run game is the standard.

Franklin also expects a ton out of his unit, and he isn't afraid to say it.

"We're used to playing dominating football around here," Franklin said. "We've been doing it for a long time, so I think they do have a chip on their shoulder. And I'm expecting that to show up on Saturday."

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## Sahaydak's revenge tour

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Nov. 19, 2022, Sander Sahaydak connected on his first career field goal and extra point against Rutgers during his redshirt freshman season.

When Jake Pinegar's time in Happy Valley was up, Sahaydak won the starting job in 2023, but it didn't last long. After going 0-for-2 on field goal tries in the 2023 opener against West Virginia, he was benched for Columbia transfer Alex Felkins.

"After those two kicks, yeah, maybe the first day or two, you start to lose confidence in yourself and what other people think of you," Sahaydak said.

Sahaydak spoke in front of the team following the game and took accountability for his misses, though he saw the field in a reserve role for the remainder of the year, going 7-for-7 on extra points.

In 2024, Sahaydak won the starting job again, beating out redshirt freshman Ryan Barker and Tulsa transfer Chase Meyer. Despite having the edge in the competitive summer and fall camp within the group, it was déjà vu for Sahaydak, as he missed his

first field goal in the opening contest against the Mountaineers.

"I mean, would I have loved to make two field goals against West Virginia last year and one field against West Virginia this year? Yeah. But, you come into practice every day, you got to flush all that away," Sahaydak said. "You can't think about it, it's not like we're sitting counting down the days."

External questions surrounding him began, as people wondered if he would still have the job when Bowling Green came around. The redshirt junior came in against the Falcons and silenced the criticism, knocking in both his field goal attempts.

"I think Sander Sahaydak coming out and making some big time field goals — that was big," James Franklin said postgame. "It's going to pay dividends for us moving forward."

Going forward, Sahaydak will be needed. Kickers have one of the toughest jobs in college football, as their production can make or break the outcome of games and even seasons.

As a result, the position can be mentally taxing, something that Justin Lustig talked to Sahaydak about when he arrived at State College.

"Kicker is a whole lot different

than any other position on the football field. So there's a lot of mental performance work that goes into that, and it's something that we addressed when I got here right away," Lustig said. "I mean, I knew that was an issue. You know, obviously the West Virginia game last year, and that's something that we talked about a lot during the summer — is getting over that."

With the mental aspect of his game needing work, Sahaydak made that a focal point during the offseason. With the pressure on him every time he lines up for a kick, he knows his mentality will be a big part of his success going forward.

"Last year, I wasn't doing everything I could to be successful. I was just focusing on the physical part of the game," Sahaydak said. "(I'm) doing different visualization, watching film, you know, anything before the game, even if that's pregame routines, pre kick routines, just to get my mind right."

Regardless of his misses in the past, Sahaydak is living in the present and poised to show why he's the starter.

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**Penn State kicker Sander Sahaydak** gets ready to kick an extra point in the Penn State football game against West Virginia.

### Crossword



# Nittany Lions in the NFL

By Lexie Linderman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Week 2 of the NFL has officially come and gone, with some blown leads, upsets and dominant wins happening along the way.

The results Sunday, especially in the early window of games, included a few big performances by some former Penn Staters.

Here's how some former Nittany Lions performed in the NFL this week.

## Mike Gesicki, tight end, Cincinnati Bengals

Tight end Mike Gesicki had one of the best games of his NFL career Sunday in the Cincinnati Bengals' 26-25 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

Gesicki tallied seven receptions for 91 yards, his highest yardage total since Oct. 17, 2021.

The former Nittany Lion also had a few crucial plays for the Bengals, including a 37-yard reception on fourth down.

Gesicki is now on pace for 85 catches in 2024, and with Bengals wide receiver Tee Higgins sidelined with an injury, it appears Gesicki will continue getting more than his fair share of targets.

## Chris Godwin, wide receiver, Tampa Bay



Ed Zurga/AP Photo

**Cincinnati Bengals tight end Mike Gesicki** runs with the ball during the first half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.

## Buccaneers

For the second straight week, Chris Godwin put up numbers in a win for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The former Penn State wide receiver recorded his 21st game with over 100 receiving yards and

had a 41-yard touchdown catch in Tampa Bay's 20-16 win over the Detroit Lions.

Godwin is tied with Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams for second in the league with 200 receiving yards and has a perfect 158.3 passer rating when targeted

through two weeks.

Additionally, Godwin earned a 90 PFF grade in Week 2, the highest among his teammates. Across both weeks of action, the ex-Nittany Lion has an overall PFF grade of 91.7.

If the first two weeks of play have been any indication, Godwin is set for a bounce-back year after an average 2023 by his standards.

## Odafe Oweh, linebacker, Baltimore Ravens

There aren't many positives the Baltimore Ravens can take away from their unexpected loss to the Las Vegas Raiders, but Odafe Oweh was one of them.

After a solid Week 1, Oweh had an even better Week 2 with five tackles, 2.5 sacks and one forced fumble.

Oweh was also the highest graded Raven in the loss, earning a PFF grade of 87.8, and is on pace for 21 sacks this season.

Ravens fans have been waiting for Oweh to have his breakout year after Baltimore drafted him in the first round three years ago, and it may be here after the for-

mer Nittany Lion's performance.

## Caedan Wallace, offensive tackle, New England Patriots

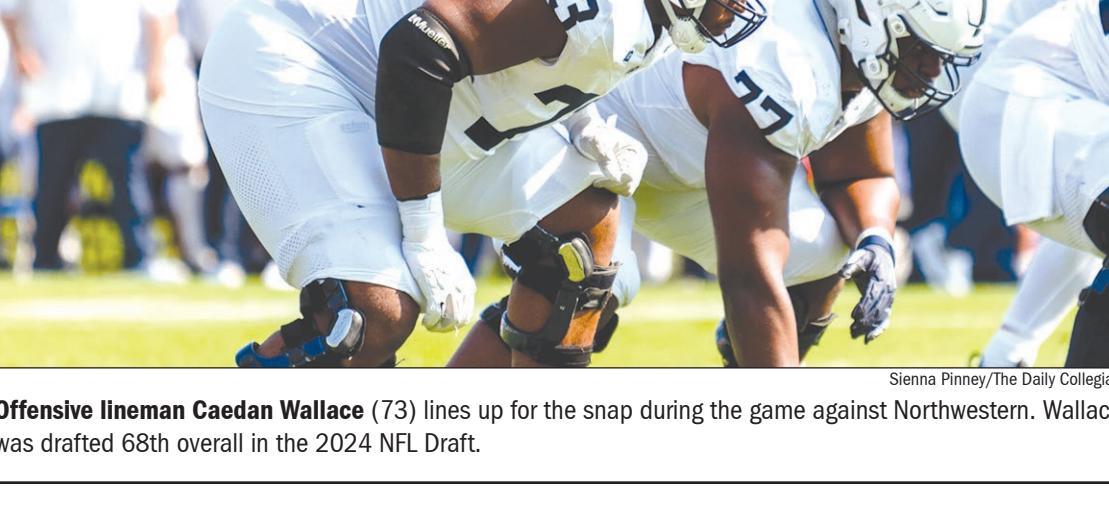
Rookie tackle Caedan Wallace saw his first meaningful game action Sunday after New England Patriots starting left tackle Vederian Lowe was injured during the Patriots' loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

Wallace was solid in his late-game action, allowing zero pressures. The former Nittany Lion had a penalty, but head coach Jerod Mayo said Monday the flag was on the coaching staff, not the rookie.

With the Patriots set to take on the New York Jets on Thursday Night Football, Wallace could see his first start at left tackle if Lowe isn't ready to go.

As for the Patriots' confidence in Wallace starting, Mayo said "we'll have to see," and that Wallace has had "good snaps" and a "next-man-up mentality."

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Sienna Pinney/The Daily Collegian

# Emergency Department

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# PRACTICE OBSERVATIONS

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A gloomy day in State College went away, as the sun came out for Penn State practice coming off of a bye week.

The practice field was bumping on Wednesday, as the media and a healthy dosage of ROTC students from Penn State flocked around the turf watching and observing the blue and white from a close distance, while a scout from the Philadelphia Eagles watched with his arms crossed behind the pack.

Coming off a poor showing, Tom Allen's defensive group could have some good news going into the contest with linebacker Ta'Mere Robinson returning to the practice field. However, safety Kevin Winston Jr. was missing for the second straight week following his exit from the Bowling Green game.

Robinson went down with an injury early in the second half against West Virginia, a game in which he was named Special Teams Player of the Week for the Nittany Lions. He was a no-show during the last two viewing sessions of practice and was inactive against the Falcons.

Robinson went to work with the rest of the linebackers, as the unit focused on tip drills.

Next to the members of LBU was the defensive line. Smith Vilbert and Abdul Carter worked with Deion Barnes and defensive line analyst Torrence Brown, exploding from their three-point stances and attacking the drill with ferocity.

Freshman Max Granville followed the known commodities in the defensive end room after earning praise from strength coach Chuck Losey this week.

"I'm not worried one bit about that guy. Like, he is an outstanding young man across the board, work ethic, personality, demeanor," Losey said. "I'm super thrilled to have him a part of the program, and I think he's going to have a big, big future here."

On the offensive side of the ball, the running backs went through drills at a rapid fire pace from the top to the bottom of the depth chart. The group worked on footwork and exploding up the field, with Ja'Juan Seider and running backs analyst Charles Walker sprinkling in feedback after reps.

Kent State gave up 456 rushing yards to Tennessee this past weekend, and with Nick Single-



Megan Miller/Collegian

**Tight end Finn Furmanek** runs with the ball during the Penn State football practice at Holuba Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

ton and Kaytron Allen fresh off a game of over 100 yards, the duo will seemingly be a big part of the game plan this weekend.

The wide receivers went through the gauntlet, starting with agility drills, finished by leaping up to catch a "jump ball." Sweat poured through Marques Hagans' shirt as he yelled "two hands" at the wideouts, while wide receivers analyst Mark Du-

puis told the group to "turn those shoulders" and attack the drill with "violence."

The group would move on to routes, with James Franklin and Andy Kotelnicki keeping a close eye. Omari Evans motioned from the outside on a short route, where Franklin told him to "immerse the shallow cross."

Evans, Julian Fleming and Liam Clifford were the first to go

in the drills, with Kaden Saunders seeming to be a more active participant despite being limited to just punt returns through two games due to his "lingering injury." Tyseer Denmark continued to flash during his reps.

"Put the fear in em," Franklin said to the wide receivers.

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Megan Miller/Collegian

**Quarterback Drew Allar** smiles after running a drill during the Penn State football practice at Holuba Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024.

## 'Lamar Allar'

*Drew Allar improves as a runner after losing 10 pounds during offseason*

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Drew Allar scrambled to the outside against West Virginia and tucked the ball under his arm as he crossed the line of scrimmage.

Mountaineers linebacker Josiah Trotter came screaming toward Allar in hot pursuit, but the junior stiff-armed the defender into the ground with noticeable force, shrugging off the 238-pound player.

"That stiff arm was a credit to our strength and conditioning program, but it was also a credit to Drew and the work that he's put in," James Franklin said postgame. "For that to happen on our sideline, and for our sideline to see that and see him make a play like that, that he has not made in the past, and then to react the way he reacted, was really pretty cool."

Allar finished the contest tallying six carries for 44 yards and looked more comfortable with his legs. He continued to showcase his skill set on the ground against Bowling Green, which included a 5-yard touchdown plunge.

After an offseason when he

dropped 10 pounds, Allar has made physical strides and has benefited as a runner because of it.

"His foundational strength has really gotten up to speed throughout his career," strength coach Chuck Losey said. "Anytime you pair that with body composition, a player's ability to get rid of the excess body weight, build muscle mass, their ability to create force

in the ground is the combination of those two things is just going to increase, and Drew just needed a little bit of time."

Losing weight was a point of emphasis for Allar throughout the offseason. His speed, body movement and footwork were all areas that could grow if the weight was dropped.

A naturally hard worker, Allar hit the ground running with the goal of losing weight, and players and coaches took notice.

"He had a really good cycle in the spring. He had a really good cycle in the summer," Losey said. "We knew his movement, like we've talked about in the past, has always been I don't want to say a deficit of his, but it was an

area that we knew we could exponentially improve."

Chuck Losey, Strength coach

Losing the weight to improve his ground game was something Allar wanted to improve, but it wasn't just for himself.

The Medina, Ohio, native knew that his game last year was one-dimensional at times and wanted the ability to take off with his legs to keep opposing defenses on their toes.

"I think it's really just more of making the defense respect me as a runner, and that was one of my goals coming in the fall camp, talking to (quarterbacks coach) Danny O'Brien, Coach (Andy Kotelnicki), Coach Franklin," Allar said.

"And I've been intentional about it, and I'm going to show it every week when I have the opportunity."

The work ethic for Allar shows both on and off the field, and the weight room is no different. Dropping 10 pounds has added an element of explosiveness to his game, and had Franklin refer to him as "Lamar Allar."

"The consistency is the biggest thing with our guys, regardless of what our goal is. And Drew was one of the more consistent guys in the program across the board," Losey said. "So I'm happy that it's paying off for him, and he's able to showcase it this year."

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## Joel Haas

**What to watch for:** Tennessee took Kent State to the woodshed last Saturday, and I expect more of the same from Penn State this weekend. If the Nittany Lions offer the Golden Flashes a running clock in the second half, they should accept it this time around.

If you're a big Ethan Grunkeley fan, you might want to tune in to the fourth quarter.

Score: Penn State 55, Kent State 3

## Lyle Alenstein

**What to watch for:** Penn State is No. 10 in the country while Kent State is 134th. While most anticipated the clash against Bowling Green to be a blowout, the Falcons are a way tougher opponent than the Golden Flashes.

There is no reason why the Nittany Lions don't blow Kent State out the water. Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen both went over 100 yards on the ground against Bowling Green, and should find similar success against the Golden Flashes.

Score: Penn State 52, Kent State 3

Score: Penn State 52, Kent State 3

## Avery Hill

**What to watch for:** If Tennessee was any glimpse of what Kent State is bringing into Happy Valley, it'll be a long day for the Golden Flashes.

After Kent State gave up 454 yards on the ground last week, running backs coach Ja'Juan Seider should be licking his chops constructing the game plan. Penn State should hit the ground hard before opening up the play action game in a blowout win over Kent State.

Score: Penn State 64, Kent State 7

## Lexie Linderman

**What to watch for:** The Golden Flashes are statistically the worst team in the FBS, and while the Nittany Lions did have a scare against an inferior opponent in Week 2, history won't repeat itself Saturday. Penn State should have no problem blowing out Kent State, and the depth guys should get some playing time toward the end of the fixture.

Expect a big day on the ground for both Singleton, Allen and even Cam Wallace.

Score: Penn State 58, Kent State 7

## Guest Picker: Adam Breneman State Media

Adam Breneman played tight end for Penn State from 2013-15 before transferring to UMass, finishing his career as a three-time All-American. Currently, he hosts the

Next Up with Adam Breneman Podcast, in addition to working for Yahoo and CBS.

Score: Penn State 52, BGSU 7

# ‘Carrying on the love’

*Grad student hikes Mount Nittany 49 times in honor of late fiancee*

By Sadie Harvey  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Saturday morning, Matthew Hollingham began his first of 49 ascents up Mount Nittany.

Hollingham, a graduate student studying engineering, named his climb Mount Neverest, as his 35 hours and 29,100 feet of hiking equaled the elevation of Mount Everest.

While the thought of this endeavor might make others' feet ache, it was a way for Hollingham to honor his fiancee, Lovisa Arnesson-Cronhamre, who died in a pedestrian crash last September.

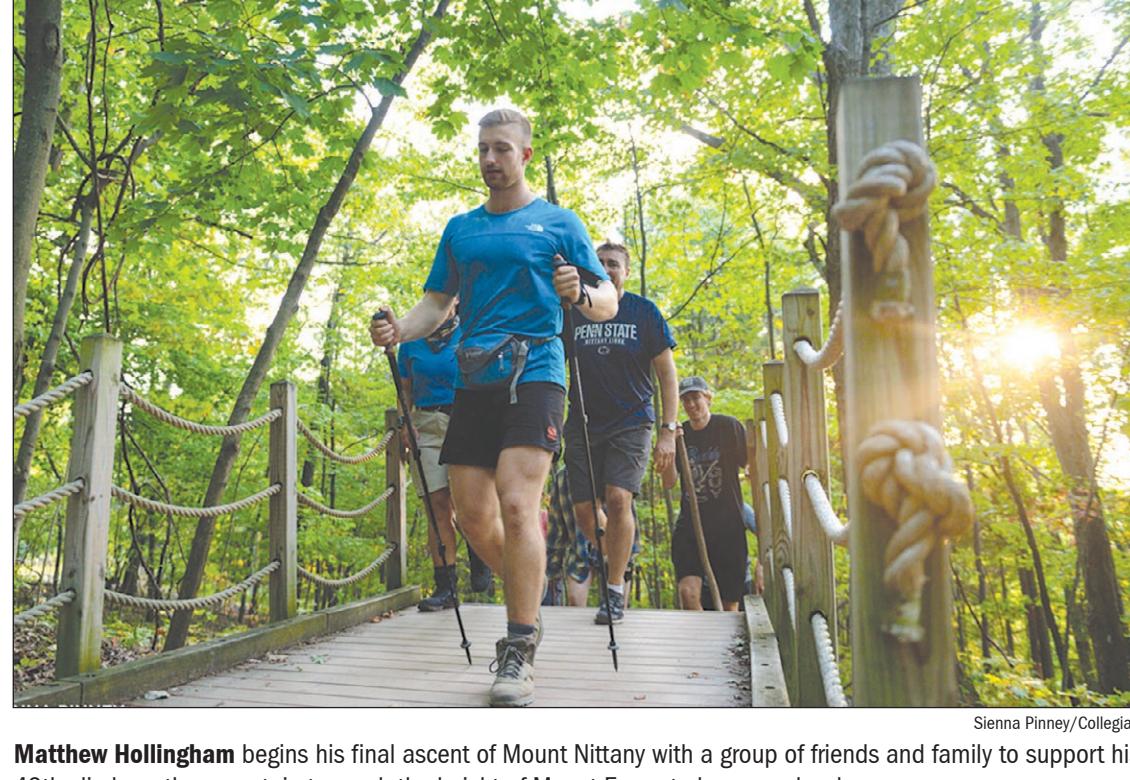
Leading up to the climb, Hollingham collected donations for Save the Children, a non-profit dedicated to lending aid to children in crisis situations.

Arnesson-Cronhamre always wanted children, Hollingham said. He chose this charity because “it’s giving back to the children she never had.”

“In a way, it’s to put something positive toward Lovisa’s name and keeping her memory alive in a positive way,” Hollingham said. “Because if she was still here, she would be bringing love and kindness to people, and so we’re just trying to do that in her absence.”

Hollingham is no stranger to testing his limits. He’s walked the length of the U.K. from Glasgow to London, in 17 days. He also walked Hadrian’s Wall, a 73-mile hike from Wallsend and Newcastle to Bowness-on-Solway on Solway Firth, in around 30 hours.

While Hollingham completed these hikes for charity in the past, he said nothing was as close to his heart as raising money in



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**Matthew Hollingham** begins his final ascent of Mount Nittany with a group of friends and family to support his 49th climb up the mountain to reach the height of Mount Everest above sea level.

Arnesson-Cronhamre’s memory.

“I think I was just bored honestly, because it was right after COVID,” Hollingham said of his first hike. “But now it’s definitely become a way to honor someone and support a really good cause.”

The climb has raised over \$11,500, and Hollingham’s Just-Giving page is still receiving donations.

Arnesson-Cronhamre’s family also announced the Be More Lovisa Graduate Student

Scholarship in Physics in the Eberly College of Science last Thursday.

“It’s trying to cover the other aspect of Lovisa’s life,” Hollingham said. “She came here to do physics. She absolutely loved the subject.”

Arnesson-Cronhamre moved to Pennsylvania from Glasgow with Hollingham to pursue a doctorate in physics, and now the family hopes to help other students pursue their passions the

way she pursued hers.

Sue Nelson, Hollingham’s mother, explained the scholarship will be given to students who not only share Arnesson-Cronhamre’s love for physics, but her other traits, as well.

“They also had to be a nice, kind person; someone who wasn’t all ‘me, me, me,’” Nelson said. “Instead, someone who looked outwards — generous in thought and spirit.”

Through a nomination process,

the family picked scholarship recipients who they believe share such qualities.

“If Lovisa had been in the physics department, she wouldn’t have nominated herself, she would have nominated someone else,” Hollingham said.

Sárka Blahnik and Emma Steinebronn were selected to receive the scholarship.

The title of the scholarship, “Be More Lovisa,” is something the family said speaks to more than just academic qualities.

“It doesn’t mean these sort of ethereal concepts, like you’ve got to be the hardest worker in the room, you’ve got to be grinding all the time, it doesn’t mean any of that,” Hollingham said. “It means just be kind, be thoughtful, be sweet. These are all the characteristics of Lovisa that made her, her.”

Arnesson-Cronhamre’s mother, Maja Cronhamre, agreed with that sentiment.

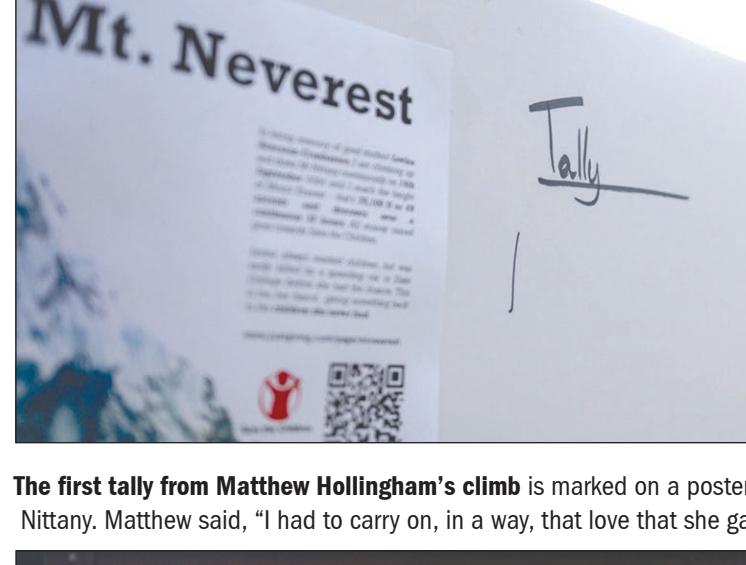
“Lovisa was brilliant and determined, but she was also very humble,” Cronhamre said.

In addition to Hollingham’s climb and the memorial scholarship, the family is also ensuring Arnesson-Cronhamre’s legacy at Penn State by planting a silver birch in the Arboretum.

“It’s beautiful because it’s by the children’s area in there, so you’ve got the sound of laughing, children playing,” Nelson said. “It was a gorgeous day. The bees and the butterflies, and it just felt lovely.”

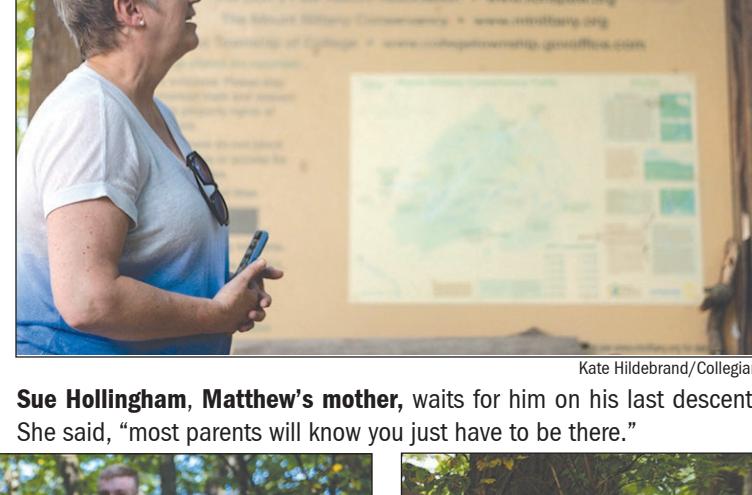
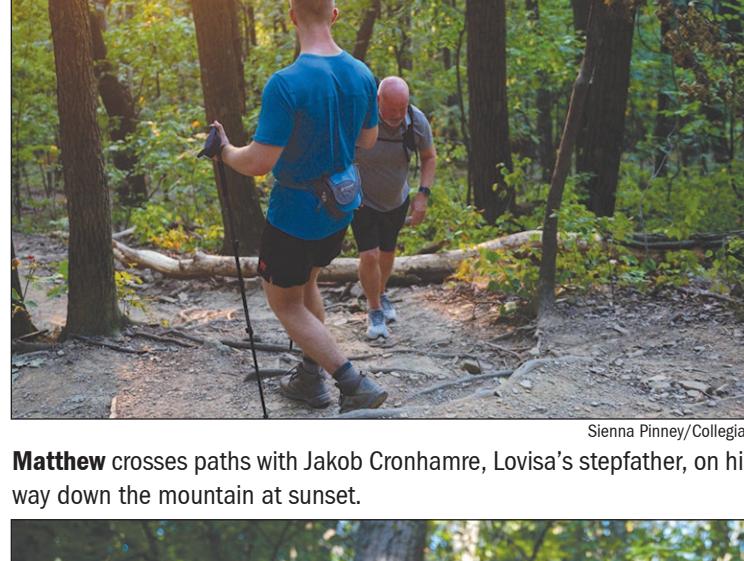
To email reporter: [seh6035@psu.edu](mailto:seh6035@psu.edu).

# “Keeping someone’s memory alive doesn’t mean that you cry.”



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**The first tally from Matthew Hollingham’s climb** is marked on a poster hanging on a tree at the top of Mount Nittany. Matthew said, “I had to carry on, in a way, that love that she gave.”



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**Matthew** crosses paths with Jakob Cronhamre, Lovisa’s stepfather, on his way down the mountain at sunset.

**Sue Hollingham, Matthew’s mother**, waits for him on his last descent. She said, “most parents will know you just have to be there.”



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

**Shane, the unofficial Mount Nittany guide dog**, watches Matthew drink water at the top of the mountain on Saturday morning of his charity hike.

# THE RED ZONE

Greeks CARE and Gender Equity Center shed light on vulnerable period

By Daniela White  
& Elbia Vidal Castillo  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Red Zone takes place during the first four months of the school year, a time when more than 50% of college sexual assaults occur.

During this time, students are more vulnerable because of the high activity levels and abundance of social events.

New information from Penn State's 2022 Sexual Misconduct Climate Survey shows how students perceive the university's response to claims of sexual misconduct.

The study found that just 42.9% of female undergraduates and 24.6% of gender-diverse undergraduates believed Penn State would take their reports seriously. This is a significant decrease from 2015, when 72.8% of female undergraduates and 59.4% of gender-diverse undergraduates believed Penn State would take their reports seriously.

There was a 0.6% increase since 2018 in the number of undergraduate (19.6%) and graduate and professional students (7.7%) who reported being survivors of sexual assault or experienced attempts.

As many as 30.9% of female undergraduates and 24.6% of gender-diverse undergraduates reported being the target of stalking behavior.

Becca Wallen, the associate director of the Gender Equity Center, said most sexual as-

saults on campus occur from the beginning of the fall semester to Thanksgiving break.

"The Red Zone is really highlighting one component of power and control where sexual violence can occur," Wallen said. "It's that vulnerability of being new and when you first step foot on campus."

More than half of the assaults occur in the first 12 weeks of school, but Wallen said there's even more Red Zones beside that.

Wallen said students who start in the summer can experience their own Red Zone in their first few weeks. Those who transfer to University Park in the spring also have a Red Zone.

Facilitator for Greeks CARE Lauren Buck said no one can predict the timing of an assault.

"What we can predict is behavior," Buck, a fourth-year studying psychology, said. "Let's say there's a really big concert in the spring, and you know that is endorsing drinking behavior and stuff like that, then that would warrant a need to be more careful."

Buck said power dynamics play a big role in the Red Zone, describing a theoretical scenario where a student has romantic feelings for their teacher's assistant. In this example, there's a power dynamic because the teacher's assistant has power over the student's grades.

"When it comes to sexual violence, it's all about power and control, and so perpetrators of violence utilize vulnerabilities of

individuals and take advantage of power imbalances," Wallen said. "So one such power imbalance is being new to campus."

Wallen added that many students who are vulnerable are also consuming alcohol and recreational drugs for the first time.

First-year students are particularly vulnerable in the Red Zone because they're adjusting to a new setting and may not have the same network of friends and family as they did in high school.

"When you are going out or you're hanging out with friends, it's very important to stay in a group and at least have one person there that knows you — and sees the signs if you're acting differently," Buck said.

Buck added that with people new to the "going-out" culture at Penn State, it's important to know one's limits with drinking and set boundaries, even if you're sober.

A facilitator for Greeks CARE, Claire Van Nice said she sees more assaults taking place in the beginning of the year.

"I definitely hear talkings of men in fraternities saying this time of year is so easy to get with girls because they're all freshmen, and they don't know anything yet," Van Nice, a third-year studying advertising, said. "I definitely think this time of year is scarier."

Saying it's unfair for women to "stay in hiding" or stay at home instead of going out, Van Nice said new students at Penn State should stay in groups, watch

what they drink and to be careful trusting someone they don't know.

Wallen said it's important for people to talk about the Red Zone because sexual violence thrives on silence.

"Being aware of different times on campus when rates of violence can be higher is always important," Wallen said.

Instead of putting responsibility on potential survivors for their actions and behaviors, Wallen said Penn State community members should engage in conversations about the Red Zone and problematic norms and culture that perpetuate violence to work toward eliminating those from the community.

"We live in a culture where sexual violence is normalized and the Red Zone is only one component of that — that we need to address," Wallen said.

To help with this situation, Penn State has partnered with non-campus groups like Centre Safe to augment the support offered by on-campus services. Resources like this help students get the help they need in times of crisis, including emergency shelter, crisis response and legal representation.

Furthermore, there are national hotlines that provide discreet assistance around the clock, such as the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

Another important resource on campus for this time period comes from the Title IX office.

Title IX's function in

safeguarding students' rights helps inform others about the dynamics of sexual misbehavior on campus. All students are protected from sexual harassment and assault under Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on sex.

Title IX lays the groundwork for reporting and supporting students during this vulnerable period by making sure they know their rights, and what to do if they encounter or witness sexual assault.

Students also have the Gender Equity Center, which facilitates prevention, education, programming and initiatives throughout the year to raise awareness to students about ways they can be active bystanders. The center also provides direct services to anyone who's experienced sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking.

The Gender Equity Center has strengthened its staff by hiring more survivor advocates and coordinators for programs with expertise in bystander intervention and peer education.

"We are a confidential resource," Wallen said. "If you or someone you know is impacted by these issues, you can connect with us, and we can best empower you with information resources to really make the best decision for yourself and your situation."

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## Roar for More

By Rachael Keller  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Roar for More: SSD University Park Puppy Club, a Penn State branch of the Susquehanna Service Dogs group based out of University Park, is open to both the community and student body.

Members of the club have the chance to foster and train puppies for their future as service dogs.

Founded 10 years ago by Nancy Dreschel, Roar for More began with three puppies but has since grown to include about 15-17 dogs.

It all started when Dreschel, a Penn State associate teaching professor, met one of the Susquehanna Service Dog members and worked with them to establish in-class educational visits.

"The students started seeing that and were like, 'We want to raise puppies here,'" Dreschel said. "So we started a program."

All the dogs that enter the program are purpose-bred through SSD or another service dog organization. The newborns are then raised in "whelping homes" until they're about 7 weeks old.

According to Dreschel, the puppies are "super socialized" in these homes. Here, they're given basic training and exposure to things like people touching their paws.

After this, the puppies return to the kennel where they attend "puppy kindergarten."

Specialized trainers then provide the puppies with more in-depth training. After this, puppies are sent to their puppy raiser and move on to "puppy college," until their final graduation at around 2 years old.

SSD volunteer program assistant Susan Lechtanski said the dogs learn about 24 hand and corresponding verbal cues in their training at University Park.

Lechtanski said these dogs learn "fundamental building blocks" like touching their nose to a blue piece of tape at the end of a stick.

"It almost seems silly," Lechtanski said. "But that later translates to them turning on and off light switches, closing doors and closing drawers."

Their training is purely based on positive reinforcement. For instance, when the dog does

something correctly, their trainer clicks a hand-held clicker and offers them a treat.

"As working dogs, they're going to be doing things that we wouldn't normally expect our pets to do," Dreschel said.

The dogs accompany their trainer to class, sporting events, club meetings, concerts and THON in order to socialize them and ensure they can work in public with no distractions.

Valerie Heydemann is currently fostering her lab, Bentley. She heard about the organization through Dreschel and Lechtanski's Small and Exotic Animal Club.

Heydemann, a recent Penn State graduate, said to become part of the program, she filled out an online application, attended an in-person orientation and had a home visit.

From there, it was "just a lot of waiting" over the course of about nine months, until she was finally placed with a dog.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for class credit if it fits within their major.

"We had two criminal justice students who wanted to be K-9 handlers," Lechtanski said. "It's interesting how they fit this into their career path."

For people who want to adopt a service animal, they go through a more formal application process with interviews and home visits.

Lechtanski said it's important to match a family with a dog that's a good fit for them.

She gave the example of a young boy in one family who was nervous about the dog chewing his stuffed animals. Things like this are always being considered when pairing a family or person with a dog, according to Lechtanski.

"We want our dogs to be happy in their jobs," Lechtanski said. "I truly believe the dog chooses you."

Roar for More dogs are trained for a large variety of services, whether that be physical or psychological.

"They do amazing work," Heydemann said. "I have seen people's lives change because of these dogs."

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Courtesy of Susan Lechtanski

Two Susquehanna Service Dog yellow labs in the Penn State Roar for More organization pose with a Penn State football.

## Rate My Professors: Reliable or not?

By Julia Key  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With over 19 million student-written comments and ratings, Rate My Professors is a website initially launched under the name "Teacher Ratings" in 1999.

The site allows students to rate, comment on and critique their professors for the benefit of other students.

Self-proclaimed as the "largest online destination for students to research and rate professors," Rate My Professors functions solely on student evaluations to determine a professor's difficulty rating out of five stars.

Students can rate the professor according to their course's quality and difficulty, as well as select from a list of description tags that may describe the professor.

For instance, some tags are labeled "lots of homework," "participation matters," "tough grader" and "clear grading criteria," among others.

Caitlyn Szeto said she uses Rate My Professors before scheduling classes and throughout the semester to compare her thoughts to those on the site.

"It sort of prepares me for classes. If a lot of reviews describe a fun, caring professor, it makes the class and college experience more worth it," Szeto, a second-year studying accounting, said. "I like attending that class more."

Szeto said she interprets reviews differently based on the course subject.

"For gen-ed classes, I take the reviews more seriously because I don't want to be putting in a ton of work for a gen ed,"

Szeto said. "For my major courses, it depends, some people like certain professors and certain teaching criteria."

Their training is purely based on positive reinforcement. For instance, when the dog does

something correctly, their trainer clicks a hand-held clicker and offers them a treat.

Although the site is fully based on student reviews and is moderated, the accuracy of these candid reviews is questionable to some.

"Some people can be very lazy and review an actually good professor badly because they gave them a lot of work," Szeto said.

"Overall, I take the reviews with a grain of salt. It just depends on the class and professor I'm looking up."

Isabella Tansey said she also worries about the dependability of reviews and comments when deciding whether to take a course.

"I worry about the reliability of (the site), which is why I look through and read the comments students left instead of going purely off the number rating,"

Tansey, a second-year studying pharmacology and toxicology, said. "I look through student responses, and depending on if I feel the comments are constructive criticism or just being rude, I will or will not take the class."

Kristen Harriman said she wonders about students' motives behind reviews.

"A lot of people give bad reviews just because they didn't do well in the class and they weren't really trying, especially for female professors," Harriman, a fourth-year studying landscape contracting, said.

"For me, the reviews only benefit for big classes that have a lot of professor options anyway."

English professor Leisha Jones said she hasn't visited Rate My Professors often throughout her 10-plus years of teaching.

"Mostly, my kids look at my ratings because my husband is also a professor, and so they like to read out the most crazy things that students have said," Jones said. "Most often, the responses are the extremes. And so they're either, 'she's the worst person ever,' or 'she's the best person ever,' but there's not much in the

way of constructive criticism."

Jones said she feels some ratings have been swayed based on gender.

"I've poked around them just a little bit, and I've compared and contrasted the difference in the different responses; they're totally gendered," Jones said. "For my husband, they're like, 'Yeah, I would get a beer with that guy.' No student would ever say that about me, even if they wanted to hang out."

Rate My Professors went through a professional redesign in 2018 and ditched its "chili pepper system," which allowed students to rate professors based on their physical appearance.

Jones said the pepper ratings are what mainly turned her away from caring about what her reviews read.

"That was a kind of gross part of it. It just goes back to the gender skewing of the roots of it," Jones said. "I remember thinking I have fealty to it, like I can't go there and think I don't get unbiased views of my teaching performance because I'm also being rated on the way I look."

When it comes to the relevant information from her ratings, Jones said she thinks her reviews are submitted from two types of students — those who put in the time and effort in her class, and those who put in minimum effort.

"I think the information that seems to be relevant to students mostly has to do with grading; some reviews say, 'I would've done well, but I didn't show up enough, so she's horrible.' But isn't that on the student?" Jones said. "As a student, I would think that criticisms of the personalities may not be as helpful as the 'if you do the work, you can get an A' kind of reviews — that is helpful information."

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A Susquehanna Service Dog sits underneath the We Are sign by the Intramural Building.

Courtesy of Susan Lechtanski

# 2000 Degrees helps students chill

By Michelle Diamond  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

2000 Degrees, a pottery studio in downtown State College, allows students to step away from the stress of school and take a breath of fresh air through creativity.

"My favorite part of the job would be just seeing everyone's creations," employee Woody Skidgel said. "It's really interesting to see all the different things people decide to make."

Skidgel emphasized how the pottery studio, which has been around for about 20 years, has its own unique atmosphere that can't be found anywhere else.

"I think what makes us stand out is the personality that the co-workers put into the place," Skidgel said. "We have all these different display pieces hanging around the store that were painted by people who worked here many years ago, and some more recent pieces."

Erin Mangan, whose cousin owns 2000 Degrees, has been working at the studio for three years.

"Just getting to see people opening up to new experiences and trying new things — it's really rewarding," Mangan, a third-year studying broadcast



2000 Degrees pottery studio "gives you the chance to be in the moment and enjoy the college experience," Erin Mangan said.

journalism, said. "Seeing 65-year-old men who have never painted before paint a cute little mug — that's really satisfying."

As a Penn State student, Mangan understands the high-stress environment that Penn Staters feel, and she highlighted how 2000 Degrees can help "ease the mind."

"I feel like it's just a fast-paced environment, but I feel like when you come here, it's very slow.

You take your time, you enjoy the moments, you talk with your friends," Mangan said. "I feel like it gives you a chance to be in the moment and enjoy the college experience."

Mangan said owner Kelly Cummins, who was born and raised in State College, truly makes the studio what it is.

"She's insanely talented, and she's just a really sweet person," Mangan said. "She's really open

to anybody who wants to put their posters up on campus — they can put it in our window. She loves to do fundraisers for the school. This store and this town have her heart for sure."

With THON being a large part of the Penn State culture, 2000 Degrees takes part in it as well.

"THON will come here a lot ... those tend to be our bigger fundraisers, but we do lots of fundraisers, especially related

to Penn State," Skidgel said. "If anyone's interested in fundraisers, they can just call us or email."

Alissa Kinney, who started working at the studio about six months ago, has enjoyed the caring culture since her first day.

"It's just fun. It's a stress-free environment and a good way to release the stresses of school and hang out with your friends, or even get to know other people if you come with clubs or organizations," Kinney, a fifth-year studying architecture, said. "The best part is you get to take home a piece and have it for forever."

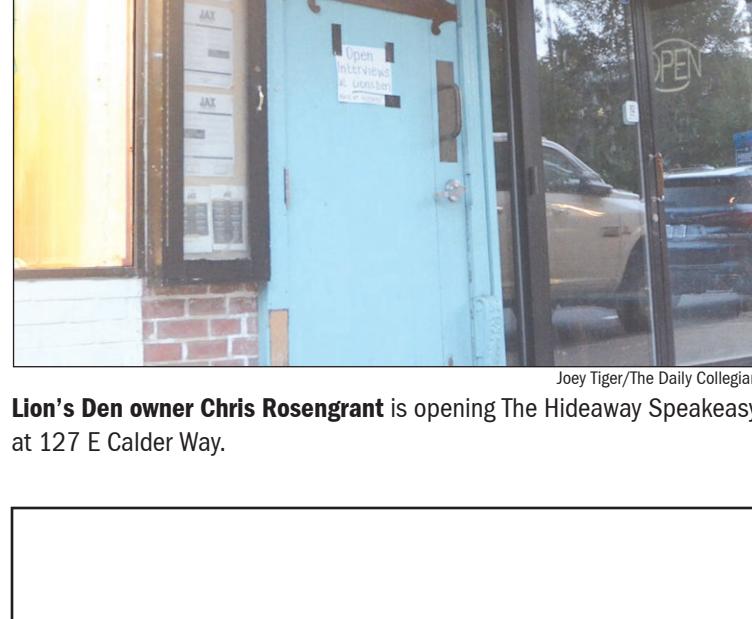
Prices vary depending on what the customer paints.

"For most individuals, it ends up being about \$20-25 depending on what they paint, which from what I hear is pretty good compared to other pottery studios," Skidgel said.

With a variety of pieces to choose from and an array of paint colors, 2000 Degrees offers the means for anyone to explore their creativity.

"How could you not be happy when painting pottery?" Mangan said.

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Joey Tiger/The Daily Collegian

Lion's Den owner Chris Rosengrant is opening The Hideaway Speakeasy at 127 E Calder Way.

## Speakeasy opens downtown

By Emily Golden  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Although there is not a definitive opening date, The Hideaway Speakeasy will open its doors to the public this fall, pending The Calder Way Project.

The bar will be located at 127 E Calder Way, where Jax Bar & Kitchen was previously located. The building has been around since the '60s.

Lion's Den owner Chris Rosengrant said the new bar was a total "passion project."

"I've had this concept for a couple years and have always loved the State College nightlife," Rosengrant said.

Rosengrant has been in the

business for 33 years and worked at Lion's Den when he was 18 before buying it 10 years later. He will open this new bar alongside his partner, Michael Fullington, who used to own many bars in town.

He said that The Hideaway will have more of a "speakeasy and lounge feel" and "won't be anything that State College has seen before."

"It will have the essence of a neighborhood bar in Brooklyn," Rosengrant said. "It will be swanky and very cool."

He said it won't necessarily follow what people would think of when they picture prohibition. He said it will be what prohibition in

2024 would look like.

The bar will feature trivia and food from around 4-9 or 10 p.m., with final times to be decided, from "one of the top chefs in State College," Rosengrant said.

He said that when someone walks in, the owners will always be present. He didn't want to create any sort of franchise bar and sees his businesses and employees like a family.

"We run family businesses and this is the perfect place," Rosengrant said. "It was absolutely the right deal to make."

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# OPINION

PAGE B4

Amy Schafer  
Editor-in-Chief

Maddie Seelig  
Opinion Page Editor

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20, 2024

# Young voters must cast their ballots, make voices heard

**V**oting is one of the most powerful ways to influence the direction of society, and for young voters — especially Penn State students — participating in elections is a crucial responsibility.

Pennsylvania, as a swing state, often plays a pivotal role in determining national outcomes.

The choices made by its voters will have lasting consequences, and younger voters must realize the weight of their influence, particularly in shaping policies that affect education, climate, healthcare and economic opportunities.

Apathy among young voters is often fueled by a sense of disenfranchisement or the belief that individual votes do not make a difference.

This perception is particularly

## OUR VIEW

### Young voters in Pennsylvania have power to influence 2024 election

dangerous in a swing state, where historical data repeatedly shows that elections can be determined by a handful of votes — Donald Trump won the state by 0.7% in 2016 and President Joe Biden by 1.2% in 2020. In such close contests, even a small increase in turnout among younger voters can change the course of an election and, by extension, the direction of state and national policies.

Student populations like those at Penn State are often transient, as the majority of stu-

dents will only remain in college for a few years, which may complicate voter registration and lead to lower participation rates.

Absentee voting and mail-in ballots have greatly reduced these barriers, yet there remains a lack of clarity about how to access these options.

Education on these processes is essential, as universities' voter registration efforts significantly impact students' ability to navigate the resources available for voting.

At the same time, it is impor-

tant for universities and the media to dispel the notion that individual votes don't matter.

Pennsylvania's history in presidential and midterm elections tells a different story — margins of victory are often slim.

This means that every vote, particularly from younger voters, has the potential to influence outcomes at both the state and national levels.

Candidates tend to focus their platforms on older, more consistent voting blocs, further dem-

onstrating why younger voters need to engage. Without their voice, their concerns are often sidelined.

For instance, policies on student loans, climate action and social justice disproportionately affect younger populations, yet these issues often receive inadequate attention from policymakers when younger voters are disengaged.

As the 2024 election approaches, Penn State students and other young voters across Pennsylvania must embrace the significance of their role in shaping the future.

Participation is not just a civic duty — it is a strategic way to ensure that policies reflect young voters' priorities.

The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and the voices of young voters must be heard.



Cartoons by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | MERCEDES HAMILTON

## The art of solitude, solo travel

From treating yourself to a solo dinner at a restaurant to strolling around a museum, venturing out alone can be daunting. But after three weeks in Dublin and a solo trip to Luxembourg, I'd

  
Hamilton

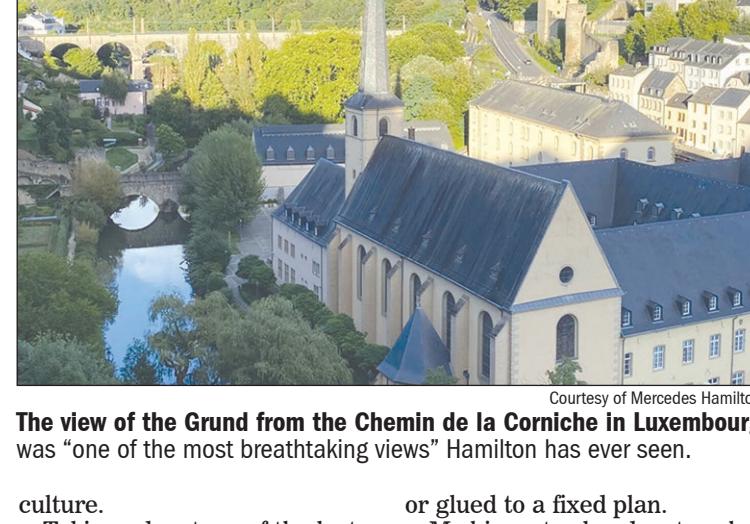
say first-year me would be proud.

Having done extensive research before my arrival, I was eager to get to Dublin's must-see spots. I was well prepared to do so alone, reflecting on all of the experiences I missed out on during my first semester at college because I didn't know anyone and was scared to go by myself.

More than anything, I appreciate the flexibility and freedom of navigating Dublin on my own.

One of my first stops was the National Gallery of Ireland, which I've been to twice now. It was nice to explore at my own pace with the audio tour, pausing at each work of art without feeling rushed.

I've also been to the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology and the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History, where I've learned more about Irish history and



The view of the Grund from the Chemin de la Corniche in Luxembourg was "one of the most breathtaking views" Hamilton has ever seen.

culture.

Taking advantage of the last few days of warm weather, I've also spent a lot of time in parks, like Phoenix Park, Merrion Square Park and St. Stephen's Green — my personal favorite. I've learned the most about daily life through these green spaces, people-watching as I go for long strolls.

Aimlessly wandering around Dublin also led me to hidden gems, like Marsh's Library and a beautiful flower shop called Howbert & Mays. I may have missed these spots had I been walking and talking with others

or glued to a fixed plan.

My biggest solo adventure by far was a 24-hour trip to Luxembourg. This small country nestled between Belgium, France and Germany boasts a rich history and stunning architecture.

Though I never imagined myself visiting, I was quickly convinced by a 35 euro round-trip ticket for a flight just a few days away.

What initially seemed scary and impulsive — navigating a country where I didn't speak the language and staying in a hostel for the first time —

quickly became one of the best decisions I've ever made.

After checking into my hotel, I walked to what many call "the most beautiful balcony in Europe." The view of a neighborhood called the Grund from the Chemin de la Corniche was one of the most breathtaking views I've ever seen.

I then spent some time learning about the country's culture and history in the National Art and History Museum, before spending hours exploring the city, where I came across many beautiful buildings, monuments and charming shops before dinner.

The next morning, I enjoyed a blueberry cinnamon bun and a unique, beetroot flavored cinnamon latte at Cinnamood before heading back to Dublin that afternoon.

On the way back to Dublin, I felt so much gratitude as I reflected on all I discovered about these new places and myself in just three weeks.

Though not without its challenges, solitude is important and insightful.

Embrace it.

**Mercedes Hamilton** is a columnist and DEI committee member for The Daily Collegian. She is a third-year double majoring in English and digital and print journalism. Email her at [Mjh7337@psu.edu](mailto:Mjh7337@psu.edu) and follow her on X at [@mercedesjh](https://x.com/mercedesjh).

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# 'The Loyal Soldier'

## Inside associate head coach Keith Fisher's impact on Penn State hockey

By Adam Waxman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On a chilly evening at Pegula Ice Arena, the spotlight often shines on the players or head coach. However, it's the quiet, calculated presence of Keith Fisher behind the bench that steers the ship.

As Penn State's associate head coach, Fisher has become the steady hand guiding the Nittany Lions through both their fiercest battles and greatest triumphs, earning respect far beyond the rink.

Long before Fisher became a fixture for the blue and white, he was already carving out a reputation as one of the sharpest minds in junior hockey.

The Minnesota native began his coaching career with the USHL's Omaha Lancers, serving as the team's recruiting coordinator and academic advisor. In his time with the Lancers, Fisher helped develop 54 NCAA Division I scholarship players and 12 NHL draft picks, including former NHL stars Matt Carle and Paul Stastny.

"That's a goal for all the players that come through our program," Fisher said. "We use that stuff all the time in recruiting. It's huge because we want kids whose end goal is playing in the National Hockey League."

Fisher helped Omaha win the Clark Cup championship in 2001 and Anderson Cup regular-season championships in 2002 and 2005.

It wasn't until 2005 when Fisher met his future coaching mate and one of his best friends, Guy Gadowsky.

Gadowsky was entering his second of seven seasons as head coach at Princeton when he brought in Fisher. The pair became inseparable, improving the Tigers' win total in Fisher's first three seasons with the program.

"(Keith) did an incredible job, both as a recruiter and a coach," Gadowsky said.

Fast-forward to 2011, when

Gadowsky was named Penn State's head coach in the program's final ACHA season.

When one of Gadowsky's first tasks as head coach was naming an assistant coach, he knew exactly who to call.

"(Keith's) a loyal soldier," Gadowsky said. "He gets along very well with everybody, and he's valuable in so many ways across campus because he's consistent and reliable."

One of the biggest names on the blue and white's current roster is sophomore Aiden Fink. The Calgary, Alberta, native posted up a team-high 34 points last season, showing out during his freshman campaign.

Fink originally committed to Wisconsin but reopened his recruitment after the Badgers made a coaching change. That's when Fisher stepped in, convincing Fink to join the Nittany Lions.

"A lot of that had to do with the coaching change at Wisconsin," Fisher said. "Anytime a recruit commits to a school and they go through a coaching change, they want to look at their options. We did a great job swooping in and being available to the kid at the right time."

Fisher also played a massive role in the recruitment process of fifth-year defenseman Jimmy Dowd Jr.

So, what exactly does Fisher mean to the Penn State hockey program?

"Everything," Dowd said. "I talked to Fish so much during my recruitment, and even after I committed, he was following up with me on weekends, asking about how I'm doing outside the rink, how my family's doing. They actually did a phenomenal job, him and Gads, just giving me that extra motivation."

A single word popped into Dowd's head to describe Fisher as a coach.

"Dedicated," Dowd said. "One thing I've known over the past four years is that he comes off as a very calm guy, but that guy cares more about Penn State



Courtesy of Craig Houtz

**Penn State head coach Guy Gadowsky, right, and assistant coach Keith Fisher, left, look on from the bench during a game against Michigan State on Nov. 24, 2017. The Nittany Lions won 7-2.**

hockey than probably anyone I know."

Outside of his recruiting ability, Fisher stresses hockey sense as a coach.

"It's difficult to define, but when you see it, you know what it is," Fisher said. "It's just being smart and making smart decisions on the ice."

Aside from being the associate head coach of the Nittany Lions, Fisher's other job is far more important.

Penn State hockey makes its name off of culture, stressing a family-like environment. Fisher has a wife and two daughters of his own that he waves to before every home game.

"It's really important to me," Fisher said. "And my girls are old enough where they can come and enjoy the games. It's special for them to be able to meet some of the players and get to know them on a personal level. There are sacrifices with that as well. I'm gone the next five weekends and I'm going to miss a lot of their

events, and I give my wife a lot of credit."

In a few weeks, Fisher and Gadowsky will kick off their 19th season working together. Fisher said the respect they have for one another is on a whole different level.

"It's crazy we've been together that long," Fisher said. "We have great respect for each other, we get along great."

Fisher has witnessed great moments in the history of the program, but one moment stands out from the rest.

"Winning the Big Ten championship in 2017," Fisher said. "Playing back-to-back double-overtime games made it a special weekend for the program. Not only winning that, but sealing our first NCAA Tournament (appearance), which was big for the program."

Fisher said the game-day atmosphere at Pegula is one of the best parts of being a Penn State coach.

"Every game at Pegula Ice

Arena is really special — I think it's a top building in college hockey," Fisher said. "The Roar Zone brings it every night, so it's a lot of fun to play in Pegula."

Whether it was junior or NCAA hockey, Fisher was meant to be a coach.

"Would I like to be a head coach someday? Yeah," Fisher said.

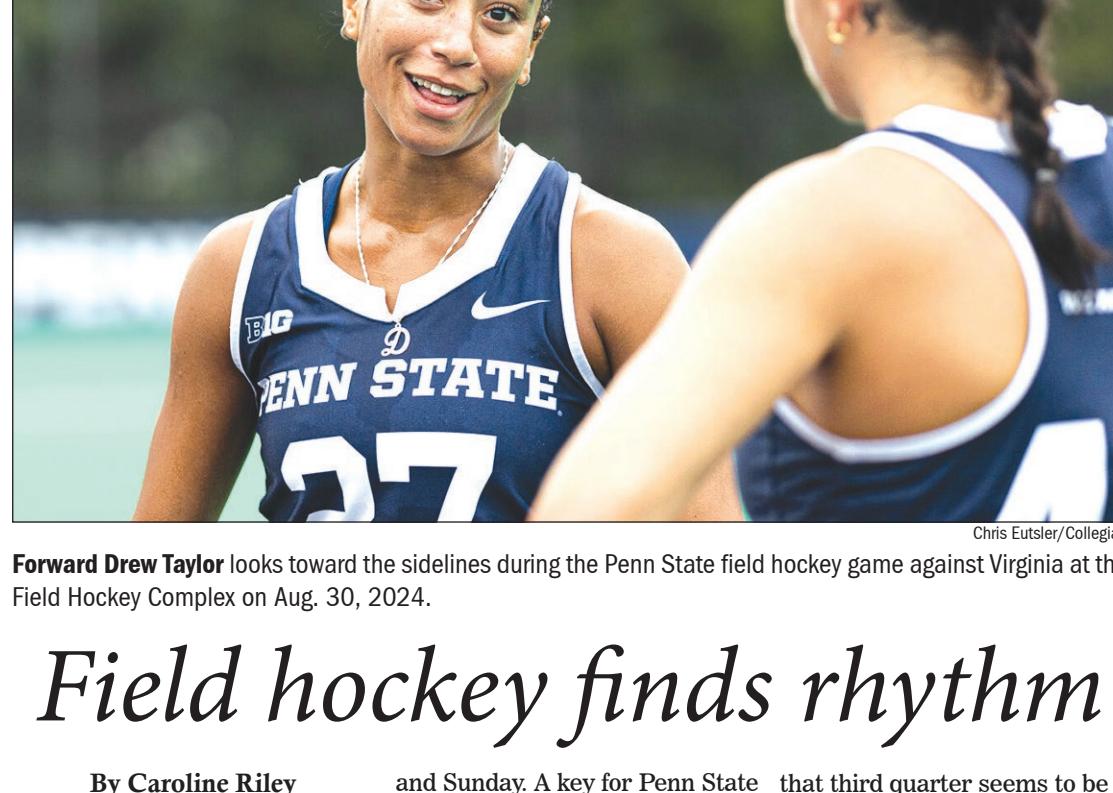
"It's got to be in the right situation, and things are great here. You also have to think that there's only 60 Division I hockey programs in the country. Some are in great situations and some aren't. It would take a lot to pull me out of it."

While Fisher might not flaunt his unmatched commitment to Penn State hockey, his players aren't shy to highlight what he means to the program.

"He's dedicated to Penn State hockey and to all 27 of us in the locker room and every single person on the staff," Dowd said.

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Chris Eutsler/Collegian

**Forward Drew Taylor** looks toward the sidelines during the Penn State field hockey game against Virginia at the Field Hockey Complex on Aug. 30, 2024.

## Field hockey finds rhythm

By Caroline Riley  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State field hockey is on a roll, going 3-0 after a rough 0-3 start to get right back in the hunt. Big energy shifts against Kent State and Princeton have propelled the Nittany Lions a .500 record.

The blue and white had a tough start to the season, facing multiple top-ranked teams in the first few weeks. It kept those games close though, showing what the team could be if they put it all together.

"(In) the beginning of the season, we played against UVA and Syracuse, which are great teams to play against," Ella Jenkins said.

"I think we came out really hard ... Obviously we lost, but when we came out, I was like, 'we played well against them,' so it gave me a lot of confidence."

Over the weekend, Penn State defeated Kent State and Princeton, going 2-0 between Friday

and Sunday. A key for Penn State moving forward will be maintaining high energy throughout the game, without fluctuation between quarters.

"Against Kent State, (in the) first half, I didn't think we played poorly, we just didn't play at our speed," Coach Lisa Bervinchak Love said. "We played at Kent State's pace and that was something we talked about at halftime ... just really playing with more speed, playing Penn State field hockey."

Looking past Kent State, the blue and white welcomed then-No. 15 Princeton into town.

While the Nittany Lions put their early-season losses behind them to come out with the win, the game against Princeton was still plagued by energy fluctuations.

"That was a huge win for us ... I think that was one of our best first halves playing-wise," Bervinchak Love said. "I think we were consistent from the first quarter to the second quarter. You know

that third quarter seems to be a quarter we struggle with a little bit, but we were able to hold on there."

While the Nittany Lions have made strides to play their own style of field hockey, this week's game against Bucknell won't be easy, something Bervinchak Love understands.

"I'll tell you what. Bucknell is a hard team to beat," Bervinchak Love said. "In my 30 years at Penn State, they're always a hard-fought battle."

Penn State will have to bring its best play this weekend, which, according to Bervinchak Love, will come from within.

"I think as coaches, we just keep remaining positive and try to motivate them, but it's just something that has to come from them ... (We need to) step on the field with confidence and recognize, 'We Are Penn State and this is our home field.'"

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## Men's soccer's struggles

By Maggie Hardy  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

During a storied rivalry game between Big Ten foes, Penn State's defensive performance stalled its chances of taking down No. 7 Ohio State.

The blue and white was defeated 5-0 under the Jeffrey Field lights on Tuesday night in its third straight loss.

It was evident from the very beginning why Ohio State is a top-10 ranked team, maintaining possession through almost the entire first half and smothering the Penn State offense.

Despite the consistent possession, the Buckeyes didn't break the ice until about 27 minutes into the first half.

The play was started by senior Michael Adedokun who cut back on defender Samuel Ovesen and sent a pass to junior Luciano Pechota who ran in and buried the shot above Penn State goaltender Andrew Cooke's head.

The second goal of the half came only about four minutes later and was a nightmare scenario for the defense - an own goal.

After Ohio State sent a corner kick into the box, it was headed down. A miscommunication between Cooke and Penn State defender Jack Bonas sent the ball off Bonas' foot and rolling into the net.

Despite these goals, the defensive deterioration didn't truly start until the second half. In fact, the defense performed fairly well through the first 45 minutes, despite trailing the entire game.

The Buckeyes had a staggering 13 corner kick opportunities in the first half, with only one resulting in a goal - all 12 others were either blocked or cleared out by Nittany Lion defenders.

"In terms of our overall defensive approach, I thought we just gave Ohio State far too much space and time on the ball," Cook said. "It proved to be fatal in terms of tonight's result."

With this loss, Penn State now moves to 2-5 on the season and 0-2 in conference play, with losses to Michigan and Ohio State. With another Big Ten matchup on Friday, the defense will need to show a much stronger performance than the one the Park Avenue Army saw on Tuesday night.

"We've got to rally and we've got to compete," Cook said. "It's a new game on Friday, and so now it's about refocusing and believing in each other and trying to turn this thing around."

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# HARRIS WALZ

As the school year begins, I would like to take this special moment to welcome you back to campus.

It feels like yesterday that I was a student at Howard University. I found forever friends, people who shaped me and supported me. I found my beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters. Like many, college is when I started to become politically engaged. Together, we learned that progress happens in our country when young people fight for it.

Throughout my travels as Vice President, I love talking to young leaders. I am continually amazed by your grit, your perseverance, your intellect, and your deep passion for making our world better.

It is because of the record turnout among college students in 2020 that I am Vice President today. And to win this election, I need your support.

This November, so many of our fundamental freedoms are at stake. The freedom to vote. The freedom to live safe from gun violence. The freedom to love who you love, openly and with pride. The freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water. And the freedom to make decisions about your own body.

Later this semester, you will have the opportunity to vote in an election that will decide the future of our country. You will have the power to shape our future. To continue to build the country you want to live in—one where your fundamental rights are protected—by taking to the ballot box and making your voice heard.

Your vote has never mattered more. When young people fight for progress, it changes the course of our nation. I believe in you. I am inspired by you. And I am rooting for your success.

Sincerely,



Vice President Kamala Harris

