



# VERSUS

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@DailyCollegian

**UCLA** (1-3)  
**BRUINS**

(4-0) **No. 7 PENN STATE**  
**NITTANY LIONS**



Graphic by: Isabella Viteri

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# USHERING IN A NEW ERA

Lexie Linderman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Big Ten has undergone a plethora of changes across its near 130-year history. The conference has been forced to adapt to the ever-changing landscape of college football, but it hasn't seen a shift like the one it experienced this season.

In June 2022, the conference's Council of Presidents voted unanimously to add UCLA and USC into the Big Ten, starting in 2024. Just over a year later, the council did the same with Washington and Oregon, bringing the total number of Big Ten schools to 18.

Plenty of schools, such as Penn State, have been added to the Big Ten since its founding in 1896, when only seven schools were members. But until now, the conference has never featured a team from the West Coast.

"I'm still getting comfortable with the idea that we have Pac-12 teams in the Big Ten," James Franklin said on the Joel Klatt show in July. "Once this thing settles, I do think it's going to make for really exciting football."

The addition of Oregon, UCLA, USC and Washington has set up some blockbusters in 2024, like Ohio State at Oregon and USC at Michigan.

It's also given way for some historic matchups, including UCLA at Penn State on Saturday.

The Nittany Lions have faced the Bruins six times across their storied pasts, but the two will

meet on the gridiron Saturday for the first time since 1968, a season forever etched into Penn State history as Joe Paterno's first undefeated season as head coach.

All six of the matchups happened from 1963-1968, with the Nittany Lions winning the first and last fixtures, but UCLA leads the head-to-head series 4-2 after tallying four straight wins in between.

"One of the things that was interesting that I was unaware of when you first start doing your homework on this opponent, is in our last five matchups against UCLA, we're 1-4," Franklin said. "I did not expect that."

UCLA's first Big Ten road game of the year is its long-awaited return to Happy Valley, leaving Bruins' first-year head coach DeShaun Foster "excited."

"(Playing in places like Beaver Stadium) is why we're excited for the Big Ten," Foster said at Big Ten Media Days. "You're just getting the opportunity to play in a lot of stadiums that you usually wouldn't get an opportunity to, so I know our players are excited to do that."

Foster's guys are looking forward to playing in a striped-out Beaver Stadium. In an Instagram video posted by Big Ten Network, all but two Bruins picked this as the game they're most looking forward to.

"The team I'm most excited to play this year in the Big Ten is Penn State," UCLA offensive lineman Josh Carlin said. "I hear



Chris Eutsler/Collegian

Penn State football head coach James Franklin stands at the podium on the second day of Big Ten Media Days on July 24 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

they have a great crowd and a great atmosphere, and I can't wait for that."

While there's plenty for teams to be excited about, the realignment brings its fair share of changes and challenges to the Big Ten.

One of the bigger changes is the elimination of divisions. Now, the conference championship will be between the top two teams in the overall standings.

Maybe the most interesting change is the addition of West Coast, pass-first offenses to a conference that's historically been the opposite. The Pac-12's leading passer in 2023, Washington's Michael Penix Jr., had over 1,000 more passing yards than the Big Ten's leader, Maryland's Taulia Tagovailoa.

"Their style of play is different from the Big Ten," safety Jaylen Reed said at Big Ten Media Days. "They're usually pass-first, and I feel like they're going to have to get adjusted and we're going to have to get adjusted to their style of play."

Reed is excited to face the incoming offenses and said it brings him "more opportunities to get interceptions."

On the flip side, West Coast defenses are used to covering the air raid offense. It was evident in last season's national championship, when Michigan ran for 303 yards and four touchdowns on Washington's defense.

Running backs coach Ja'Juan Seider is aware of the difference between the two play styles, but isn't expecting his guys to have it easy on the ground against the former Pac-12 teams.

"You get more in tune when you play them," Seider said. "The worst thing you can do is say a team's not physical, they don't

play that physical brand ... I think coming into the Big Ten you understand everybody plays great defense ... I'm sure they're going to be eager."

Seider said USC gained 1,000 pounds of muscle, so he thinks the new additions "understand what they came into" and are ready for the physicality of the Big Ten.

Penn State will see Saturday whether UCLA has adapted to its new conference, as it hasn't been smooth sailing so far for the Bruins. They enter the fixture at 1-3, including a 42-13 loss to Indiana.

"(UCLA) is a team that is still trying to find their way," Franklin said. "Offensively, defensively and on special teams, you see them do some really nice things at times ... It is going to be a challenge for us."

Linebacker Tony Rojas said the team is "excited" to face an opponent it hasn't seen in years and welcome them to Happy Valley once again.

"They're excited to come into Beaver Stadium," Rojas said. "It's exciting, just playing a team you haven't played. We're going to come off strong no matter who it is and respect every opponent, so I can't wait."

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Joel Haas/Collegian

Mannequins wearing branded apparel from Big Ten teams stand on display during the second day of Big Ten Media Days on July 24 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

UCLA BRUINS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jalen Berger	RB/Sr.	19	Karson Gordon	QB/Fr.	44	Peter Bario	RB/Fr.	71	Rueben Unije	OL/Sr.
0	Donavyn Pellot	LB/Fr.	19	D.J. Justice	DB/Jr.	45	Chase Berry	P/So.	72	Garrett DiGiorgio	OL/Jr.
1	Kanye Clark	DB/Fr.	20	Cameron Jones	RB/Fr.	45	Marquise Villahermosa	DB/Fr.	73	Alani Makihele	OL/Jr.
1	Rico Flores Jr.	WR/So.	20	Kain Medrano	LB/Sr.	46	Travis Drosos	LB/Sr.	74	Spencer Holsteger	OL/Sr.
2	Titus Mokiao-Atimalala	WR/Jr.	21	Ezavier Staples	WR/Jr.	47	Wyatt Mosier	LB/Fr.	75	Mark Schroller	OL/Fr.
2	Oluwafemi Oladejo	LB/Sr.	21	JonJon Vaughns	LB/Sr.	48	Joqueerri Price	DL/Sr.	76	Marquise Thorpe-Taylor	OL/Fr.
3	Kwazi Gilmer	WR/Fr.	22	Keegan Jones	RB/Sr.	49	Leo Kemp	RB/So.	77	Jaylan Jeffers	OL/Sr.
3	Devin Kirkwood	DB/Sr.	22	Croix Stewart	DB/So.	49	Carson Schwesinger	LB/Jr.	78	Walker Andersen	OL/Fr.
4	Bryan Addison	DB/Sr.	23	Anthony Adkins	RB/Sr.	50	Saleem Abdul-Wahab	SN/So.	81	Hudson Habermehl	TE/Sr.
4	Ethan Garbers	QB/Sr.	23	Khristian Dunbar-Hawkins	DB/Fr.	50	Dovid Magna	OL/Sr.	82	Sam Summa	TE/Jr.
6	Jaylin Davies	DB/Jr.	25	T.J. Harden	RB/Jr.	51	Isaiah Patterson	LB/Fr.	83	Russel Weir	WR/Fr.
6	Justyn Martin	QB/So.	26	Zeke Thomas	DB/Sr.	52	Jordan Abarca	DL/Fr.	85	Grant Gray	WR/Fr.
7	J.Michael Sturdivant	WR/Jr.	27	Isaiah Carlson	RB/Fr.	52	Michael Carmody	OL/Jr.	87	Bryce Pierre	TE/Sr.
7	K.J. Wallace	DB/Sr.	28	Jack Pedersen	TE/So.	53	Jacob Reis	LB/Fr.	88	Grant Buckey	DL/Fr.
9	Dermaricus Davis	QB/Fr.	29	Anthony Frias II	RB/Jr.	54	Josh Carlin	OL/Sr.	88	Moliki Matavao	TE/Sr.
9	Kaylin Moore	DB/Sr.	29	Evan Thomas	DB/Sr.	55	A.J. Fuimaono	DL/Fr.	89	Michael Churich	TE/Sr.
10	Henry Hasselbeck	DB/Sr.	30	Joseph Vaughn	LB/Sr.	56	Tavale Tuikolovatu	OL/Fr.	90	Marcus MacNeal	SN/Fr.
10	Ale Kaho	LB/Sr.	31	Deshun Murrell	RB/Jr.	58	Gary Smith III	DL/Sr.	91	Brody Richter	P/So.
11	Chase Griffin	QB/Sr.	32	Troy Leigber	RB/Fr.	59	Tannen Vagle	DL/Sr.	91	Michael Sullivan	DL/Jr.
11	Ramon Henderson	DB/Sr.	33	Ty Lee	RB/Fr.	60	Jensen Somerville	OL/Fr.	92	Siale Taupaki	DL/Sr.
12	Jamir Benjamin	DB/Fr.	35	Devanti Dillard	WR/Sr.	61	Jack Clarke	OL/Fr.	93	Jay Toia	DL/Sr.
12	Luke Duncan	QB/Fr.	36	Joshua Swift	DB/Sr.	62	Michael Sultemeier	OL/Fr.	94	Mateen Bhaghani	K/So.
14	Carter Shaw	WR/Fr.	37	David Dellenbach	K/Fr.	63	Kory Symington	OL/Fr.	94	Cherif Seye	DL/Sr.
14	Clint Stephens	DB/So.	37	Joshua Dixon	DB/Fr.	64	Sam Yoon	OL/So.	95	Sitiveni Havili Kaufusi	DL/Sr.
15	Braden Pegan	WR/So.	39	Blake Glessner	K/Sr.	65	Devin Delgado	OL/So.	96	Collins Acheampong	DL/Fr.
15	Drew Tuazama	DL/Sr.	39	R.J. Jones	DB/Fr.	66	Niki Prongos	OL/So.	97	Jacob Busic	DL/Jr.
17	Logan Loya	WR/Sr.	40	Mone Malafu	LB/Fr.	67	Yutaka Mahe	OL/Jr.	97	Joseph Firebaugh Jr.	K/Jr.
17	Jalen Woods	LB/So.	41	Larry Edwards III	LB/Fr.	68	Noah Pulealii	OL/Jr.	98	Trent Middleton	SN/Fr.
18	Nick Billoups	QB/Sr.	43	Brett Barry	DB/Fr.	69	Oluwafunto Akinshilo	OL/Jr.	98	Luke Schuermann	DL/Sr.
18	Jadyn Marshall	DB/So.	44	Devin Aupiu	DL/Jr.	70	Caleb Walker	OL/Jr.	99	Keanu Williams	DL/Jr.

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/Fr.	42	Mason Robinson	DE/Fr.	74	J'ven Williams	OL/Fr.
1	Jaylen Reed	S/Sr.	18	Max Granville	DE/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Sr.	75	Matt Detisch	OL/So.
2	Liam Clifford	WR/Jr.	19	Josiah Brown	WR/Fr.	44	Jaylen Harvey	DE/Fr.	76	Mason Carlan	OL/Sr.
2	Kevin Winston Jr.	S/Jr.	19	Jack Lambert	QB/Fr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Sr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/Sr.
3	Julian Fleming	WR/Sr.	20	Mylachi Williams	DE/Fr.	45	Jackson Pryts	LB/So.	79	Addison Penn	OL/Sr.
3	Jalen Kimber	CB/Sr.	21	Vaboue Toure	S/Fr.	47	Will Patton	SN/Fr.	80	Mehki Flowers	WR/So.
4	Tyseer Denmark	WR/Fr.	23	Antoine Belgrave-Shorter	CB/Fr.	47	Aidan Probst	DE/Fr.	82	Ethan Black	WR/Fr.
4	A.J. Harris	CB/So.	24	Ta'Mere Robinson	LB/Fr.	48	Tyler Duzansky	SN/So.	83	Jake Spencer	WR/Sr.
5	Omari Evans	WR/Jr.	24	Corey Smith	RB/Fr.	49	Ben Chizmar	LB/Jr.	84	Peter Gonzalez	WR/Fr.
5	Cam Miller	CB/Jr.	25	Quinton Martin Jr.	RB/Fr.	50	Cooper Cousins	OL/Fr.	85	Luke Reynolds	TE/Fr.
6	Harrison Wallace III	WR/Jr.	26	Cam Wallace	RB/Fr.	50	Alonzo Ford Jr.	DT/Sr.	86	Jason Estrella	WR/Jr.
6	Zakee Wheatley	S/Jr.	27	Lamont Payne Jr.	CB/Fr.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/Sr.	86	Aaron Enterline	WR/Fr.
7	Kaden Saunders	WR/So.	28	Zane Durant	DT/Jr.	52	Dominic Rulli	OL/So.	87	Andrew Rappleyea	WR/Fr.
7	Zion Tracy	CB/So.	28	Karson Kiesewetter	QB/Fr.	53	Nick Dawkins	OL/Sr.	88	Jerry Cross	TE/So.
8	Tyler Johnson	WR/So.	29	Audavion Collins	CB/So.	54	Xavier Gilliam	DT/Fr.	88	Sam Siafa	DT/So.
8	DaKaari Nelson	S/Fr.	30	Amiel Davis	RB/So.	54	Ian Harvie	OL/So.	89	Finn Furmanek	TE/Fr.
9	Beau Pribula	QB/So.	30	Kari Jackson	LB/Fr.	55	Chimdy Onoh	OL/Fr.	90	Liam Andrews	DT/Fr.
10	Nick Singleton	RB/So.	31	Logan Cunningham	WR/So.	56	Joseph Mupoyi	DT/Fr.	91	Dvon J-Thomas	DT/Sr.
10	Dejuan Lane	S/Fr.	31	Kolin Dinkins	CB/So.	56	JB Nelson	OL/Sr.	91	Chase Meyer	K/Jr.
11	Abdul Carter	DE/Jr.	32	Keon Wylie	LB/So.	57	Donnie Harbour	OL/Fr.	92	Andrew Dufault	SN/Fr.
12	Anthony Ivey	WR/So.	33	Dani Dennis-Sutton	DE/Jr.	58	Kaleb Artis	DT/So.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/Sr.
12	Jon Mitchell	CB/Fr.	34	Tyler Holzworth	RB/Jr.	60	Logan Bahn	OL/Fr.	93	Bobby Mears	DE/Fr.
13	Kaytron Allen	RB/Jr.	35	Blaise Sokach-Minnick	SN/So.	61	Liam Horan	OL/Fr.	93	Sander Sahaydak	K/Jr.
13	Tony Rojas	LB/So.	35	Tyler Armstead	CB/Fr.	63	Alex Birchmeier	OL/Fr.	94	Ryan Barker	K/Fr.
14	Tyrece Mills	S/Jr.	36	Zuriah Fisher	DE/Jr.	64	Eagan Boyer	OL/Fr.	94	De'Andre Cook	DT/Fr.
14	Jaxon Smolik	QB/Fr.	36	Feyisayo Oluleye	WR/Sr.	65	Jim Fitzgerald	OL/So.	95	Jordan Mayer	DE/Fr.
15	Drew Allar	QB/So.	37	Beckham Dee	LB/Fr.	66	Drew Shelton	OL/Jr.	95	Riley Thompson	P/Jr.
15	Amin Vanover	DE/Sr.	38	Winston Yates	LB/Fr.	67	Henry Boehme	OL/Fr.	96	Mitchell Grop	P/Jr.
16	Khalil Dinkins	TE/So.	39	Ty Blanding	DT/Fr.	68	Anthony Donkoh	OL/Fr.	97	T.A. Cunningham	DT/Fr.
16	Elliot Washington II	CB/Fr.	39	Jashaun Green	S/So.	70	Garrett Sexton	OL/Fr.	99	Coziah Izzard	DT/So.
17	Karson Kiesewetter	QB/Fr.	40	Anthony Specca	LB/Fr.	71	Vega Ioane	OL/So.		Gabriel Nwosu	P/So.
17	Ethan Grunkemeyer	QB/Fr.	40	Patrick Williams	S/So.	72	Nolan Rucci	OL/Jr.			
17	Kenny Woseley Jr.	CB/Fr.	41	Kobe King	LB/Jr.	73	Caleb Brewer	OL/Fr.			



# ‘A SPECIAL YEAR’

*Penn State’s defense channeling energy, leadership into Big Ten play*

By Avery Hill  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Through the first few games, regardless of results, one thing has been clear from Penn State’s defense: the Nittany Lions think they’re the best in the country.

The Nittany Lions’ claim has merit to it, too. They’ve recognized when they aren’t playing as such. Saturday’s game against Illinois was a glimpse of what they can be, and they look to continue that through Big Ten play.

In terms of philosophy, Penn State prides itself on playing the run first. The Nittany Lions’ run defense was stout against the Fighting Illini, holding them to 34 yards. Defensive tackle Dvon J-Thomas said it’s time to continue that success.

“We just tapped into exactly who we are,” J-Thomas said. “It didn’t necessarily start how we wanted, but at the same time... college football is competitive, that’s just how it goes.”

In the opening drive, Luke Altmyer and Illinois marched down the field with an 11-play, 75-yard drive that ended with a touchdown to tight end Carson Goda. In the moment, defensive captain Kobe King acted as the voice of



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

**Defensive tackle Dvon J-Thomas** prays before the Homecoming game against Illinois at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024, in University Park, Pa. The Nittany Lions beat the Fighting Illini 21-7.

reason on the sideline, reminding his team they have much more game to play.

King isn’t the only one who can step up and take lead in moments of crisis. Safety Jaylen Reed took partial responsibility for the lulls on defense, pointing blame away

from anything related to coaching.

“It’s the energy, it’s the leaders,” Reed said. “It’s not really too much to be said, it’s just we got to start coming out hot and fast and have the crowd with us early.”

Penn State dominated the Fighting Illini after that point. It was a big showing for the Nittany Lions, and even more impressive since it was their first ranked opponent.

The step up in competition, specifically Big Ten competition,

made way for Penn State to assert that it’s ready for conference competition.

While UCLA will likely be reminiscent of other lower-caliber opponents, Penn State will then play at No. 11 USC, at Wisconsin and versus No. 3 Ohio State.

Penn State’s defense will be tested week after week, and must remain consistent to hold a claim for top defense. J-Thomas thinks they’ve been doing a great job with that.

“Not only in how we operate, how we work. But in the way we eat, our diets,” J-Thomas said. “We’ve been very consistent in that process and it’s showing up on the field.”

With the exception of Bowling Green, Penn State held its opponents to 12 points or less, and it ranks No. 4 in the country with 222.5 yards allowed per game.

There were hefty expectations created in the Penn State defensive room. J-Thomas is confident they’ll live up to them.

“It’s just an incredible feeling playing on a defense like this,” J-Thomas said. “This is going to be a special year for our defense.”

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## UCLA series history

By Lexie Linderman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

No. 7 Penn State will host UCLA on Saturday in the Nittany Lions’ first game against one of the four new Big Ten teams.

The pair have only played six times across their long histories, with UCLA holding a 4-2 lead head-to-head. Their tilts usually make for exciting football — only two games between the Bruins and Penn State have been decided by more than one possession.

Penn State took home a 21-6 win the last time it faced the Bruins in 1968, where the blue and white entered as the No. 3 team in the country.

To open the scoring, Jack Ham blocked a Bruin punt, which Jim Kates picked up and ran in for a 36-yard touchdown.

The Nittany Lions went on to finish undefeated for the first time under coach Joe Paterno with a nail-biting victory over No. 6 Kansas in the Orange Bowl. Penn State finished just one spot back of the No. 1 ranking and title of national champions.

UCLA and Penn State’s first meeting in 1963 also went to the Nittany Lions, who won 17-14 in Happy Valley. Penn State finished the season 7-3, while UCLA ended with an abysmal 2-8 record.

In the four games between their first and latest meeting, the Bruins dominated with a 4-0 record, starting with a 21-14 win in 1964.

The next year, UCLA started to turn things around after a few poor seasons, winning the Rose Bowl and finishing the season No. 4. Along the way, the Bruins beat the Nittany Lions 24-22 in Rip Engle’s last season as Penn State head coach and UCLA legend Gary Beban’s first year under center.

UCLA remained one of the best teams in the country in 1966, and it destroyed Penn State 49-11 that year in the most lopsided victory of the teams’ all-time series.

The Bruins finished as a top-five team for the second straight year, while the Nittany Lions went 5-5 in their first season under Paterno, missing out on a bowl for the second straight season.

Penn State began to turn things around in 1967, going 8-2 in the regular season and tying Florida State in the Gator Bowl, earning a No. 10 year-end ranking.

One of those losses, however, was to UCLA, which defeated the Nittany Lions 17-15 in State College. The Bruins finished the year 7-2-1 but outside of the top 10.

Despite finishing under expectations, Beban won the Heisman in 1967 and remains the only Bruin to take home the coveted award. “The Great One,” who went 3-0 against Penn State, has since had his jersey number retired and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1988.

After facing off six straight years from 1963-1968, the stars haven’t aligned for Penn State and UCLA to play again until now, giving the Nittany Lions a chance to start turning the tide in the all-time series.

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Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**Penn State safety Zakee Wheatley** runs down the field after a kick at the THON Game against Bowling Green in Beaver Stadium.

## Safeties ‘excited’ for Bruins

By Lexie Linderman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Last week, Penn State faced an Illinois team that prides itself on the run. This week, the Nittany Lions are taking on the complete opposite in UCLA.

The Bruins rank second-to-last in rushing yards per game, relying on their passing game to get any sort of offensive production.

Safety Zakee Wheatley said preparing for the difference in offensive play style is “exciting” for him and his teammates.

“Illinois is more big body for the most part, getting pads ready. That’s every week. But for (UCLA), I did watch the film,” Wheatley said. “The ball’s gonna be in the air more, so there’s more opportunities for us to get the ball back.”

Wheatley’s excitement also stems from the opponent itself. The junior said he played against UCLA in NCAA football when he was a kid.

“It’s a new matchup,” Wheatley said. “It’s just crazy, coming to Beaver Stadium, seeing the uniforms in that stadium, gonna be a little different, but I’ll enjoy it.”

Wheatley said Penn State has watched film and done their preparations, but the Nittany Lions are “treating every opponent the same.”

Wheatley played every snap against Illinois with star safety Kevin Winston Jr. out long-term, and he’ll likely see the field a similar amount Saturday. His mindset and preparation for such a large role has been “three years in the making” for the safety, who has always had more of a backup role.

“It’s been a process,” Wheatley said. “It took all three years for me to get mentally ready for this, really just coming with the

same approach, being ready, being happy, being excited about playing, and it’s really what I wanted since I’ve been here.”

The mental aspect of the game is something the entire safety room prides itself on, and it’s been important with the Penn State defense giving up two opening-drive touchdowns this season.

“We never lost confidence as a defense,” Wheatley said. “I just felt like that Illinois game, holding them to what we did, of course helped the defense, helped the confidence and mentality, but I pretty much had the same mindset.”

Due to the opening-drive touchdowns, Wheatley said the defense has been emphasizing starting fast from the first play of the game, and staying energized through the whole contest.

Jaylen Reed has played a big role in the defense’s mentality by being a more vocal leader and using his smarts to teach his teammates.

“Reed’s a very smart football player, very mature football player,” Wheatley said. “He’s really just being himself, taking his role more serious. He’s always taking it serious, but just coming to this year with younger guys, him being one of the older guys, just trying to lead by example, being a vocal leader, and that’s really it.”

The Nittany Lion safeties are ready for the Bruins on Saturday, with the entire defense prioritizing the Penn State standard.

“The people who know the standard are raising people who don’t,” Wheatley said. “That’s confidence, that’s aggressiveness ... just play with the edge. It’s kind of the standard here, you want to feel Penn State play defense. That’s what you gotta do, be confident and play hard.”

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Joel Haas/Collegian

**Penn State football running back Nick Singleton** jogs with the ball during practice on April 2, 2024, at Holuba Hall in University Park, Pa.

## Practice observations

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

State College hasn’t seen the sun in over a week, as the rain has been constantly crashing down. With rainfall in the area, Penn State moved its Wednesday practice inside Holuba Hall.

During the indoor media viewing session, a few players were spotted after dealing with injuries.

Linebacker Dom DeLuca was an active participant after being inactive against Illinois and exiting early against Kent State. The captain and special teams ace was seen sporting a cast on his arm, which he wore during practice.

Starting right guard Sal Wormley was also going through drills after leaving the game against the Fighting Illini. He was going hitting the sled with no problem.

The status of both DeLuca and Wormley is still up in the air for the tilt against UCLA, as James Franklin said Monday he “expects” to have them back at some point.

The safety group went through drills at a rapid pace with position coach Anthony Poindexter watching closely. Each player backpedaled and then cut on a dime to haul in a pass.

“We gotta play like the NFL,” Poindexter said.

The cornerbacks picked up the intensity alongside the safeties, and faced consequences for dropped passes.

Despite A.J. Harris hauling in his first interception since high school against Illinois, he dropped a pass during the drill, and Poindexter immediately made him bang out a set of push-ups.

Harris wasn’t phased — when the secondary was going over its personnel, the sophomore knew the plays like the back of his own hand, yelling “I’m in zone” before the play call was simulated.

Transitioning to the other side of the ball, the running backs flew through drills with high intensity, and it made sense coming off a game in which Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen dominated on the ground.

“Don’t slam your feet,” running back coach Ja’Juan Seider said to his room as they went through footwork drills.

The wide receivers went to work inside Holuba Hall, working on quick releases off the line of scrimmage, as they caught 10-yard routes moving vertically down the field.

After some route running, the unit worked with wide receivers coach Marques Hagans and offensive analyst Mark Dupuis, to practice going vertical and grabbing receptions as they leapt over tackling dummies.

Drew Allar and Beau Pribula commanded half the field, as the tandem fired off passes to the tight ends.

While Pribula saw most of his work as a passer, his work wasn’t limited to just tossing the pigskin, as Allar connected with Pribula on a crossing route as the viewing session of practice came to a conclusion.

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# Allar locks in

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Drew Allar often has his headphones in, but the quarterback will sometimes change what he's listening to.

That switch isn't going between different genres of music — instead, Allar will transition to listening to recorded plays on his phone to help him go over the offensive playbook.

I'll just turn my music off and start listening to the play calls and just visualize the play, my footwork, read keys and things of that nature," Allar said. "So when I get into the game, I hear the play call, and then I'm not even thinking of, 'okay, what is my process like?' I already know, it's just second nature at that point."

Allar has emphasized throughout the year that his comfort level in Year 2 as a starter due to the experience and lessons he learned in 2023. He feels like he's been "the most prepared quarterback in the country."

A new wrinkle in the junior's preparation is writing down the play calls on paper the night before the game. This new approach was picked up from the Netflix series "Quarterback" where then-Minnesota Vikings quarterback and now Atlanta Falcons gunslinger Kirk Cousins.

"I really kind of took that on into my own process, and something I didn't really do last year," Allar said. "Just padding the plays and writing the plays down and just going through it, getting extra mental reps when I'm at home or at the facility."

A large part of his comfort level



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

**Quarterback Drew Allar** warms up at Penn State's Homecoming football game against Illinois in Beaver Stadium on Sept. 28, 2024 in University Park, Pa. The Nittany Lions beat the Fighting Illini 21-7.

has been the growth of not only his individual relationships with James Franklin, offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki and quarterbacks coach Danny O'Brien, but the bond the group has.

Allar said he committed to Penn State because he liked the security of Franklin being there for his entire career after signing a contract extension, as well as O'Brien being around since Allar was recruited by the Nittany Lions.

But the captain knew having

the same coordinator in the current landscape of college football isn't a guarantee, which was the case for him. After two years of having Mike Yurcich as offensive coordinator, he now has Kotelnicki, who has helped him tremendously.

"I think for Coach K, like, it's just how many walk-throughs we really do have, and how many mental reps are getting up plays," Allar said. "And he's really explaining the why behind everything. "You know, why plays are

getting called, which is huge for me. I can anticipate play calls being called in."

With Kotelnicki at the helm, the offense is beginning to click and it's having a good time doing so.

"Everybody is buying into it since the spring, everybody is having fun," Nick Singleton said. "You can tell everybody's mood has been really different from last year, too. We're being more explosive, obviously winning games. We just gotta keep going with it."

Penn State is 4-0, and the of-

fense is finding its identity of being explosive. While Allar knows the unit is finding its rhythm, he said Penn State has to take things one play at a time.

"There's just a lot of positive energy on our side of the ball, but also when things aren't going right," Allar said. "We're doing a really good job of washing those plays and learning from those plays and moving on."

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Katelyn Supancik/Collegian

**Cornerback Elliot Washington II (16)** celebrates a turnover at the THON Game against Bowling Green on Sept. 7, 2024 in Beaver Stadium in University Park, Pa. Nittany Lions beat the Falcons 34-27.

## Washington earns role

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Elliot Washington II dropped back into coverage with less than three minutes to go in the fourth quarter against West Virginia.

As he went step-for-step with his assigned wide receiver, he was being yelled at from the Penn State sideline to go up and get the ball as he leapt up to corral his first career interception.

"Really kind of forced them out of bounds, came back into play, and all I heard was "ball" from the sideline," Washington said. "I looked up and it was right there, so I just wanted to go get it."

In his true freshman season in 2023, the cornerback appeared in 10 games between defense and special teams, but saw the most run in the Peach Bowl loss against Ole Miss, and it wasn't a standout performance.

With Kalen King and Johnny Dixon opting out of the postseason performance in pursuit of the NFL Draft, Washington, Cam Miller and Zion Tracy got thrust into a tough spot. It didn't go over well for the young cornerbacks as Jaxson Dart had his way with the defensive backs, throw-

ing for 379 yards.

Washington had a rough time in his first crack at meaningful snaps, but he's come a long way since the contest against the Rebels.

"I would say I matured a lot — film room, off the field, studying with plays, getting with coaches, and working on my craft with other players and stuff like that," Washington said.

Through four games, the sophomore has piled up three total tackles, three pass breakups and the lone interception. Additionally, he made his first career start against Kent State and ran it back in the starting role against Illinois. He said he found out on the field pregame, and hearing his name called on the video board was a "blessing."

"Elliot has just been playing really well and practicing really well and earned the opportunity to get more playing time," James Franklin said. "Elliot earned the opportunity by the way he's been playing."

The Venice, Florida, native boasts a ton of intangibles to help out the Penn State defense with his 5-foot-11, 194-pound frame. Not only does he physically have

the traits to contribute on defense, but his confidence is at an all-time high, and Tony Rojas said the defense "trusts Elliot a lot."

"The confidence has gone up, his swagger, and I feel like that's what our defense is about, their swagger," Rojas said. "His speed and his physical abilities just helped our defense."

A lot of pressure was thrown his way to fill in a role in the cornerback room, with King, Dixon and Daquan Hardy off to greener pastures. On top of that A.J. Harris transferring from Georgia and Jalen Kimber coming in from Florida put pressure on Washington to perform.

Washington said "nothing changed" about how he attacks his day-to-day approach, and his work ethic and role on the defensive side of the ball has been a crucial part in the success for Tom Allen's unit so far.

"We still got work to do," Washington said. "Our standard is the standard for sure, so we going to be the top defense in the nation."

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## Football practice notebook

By Avery Hill  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In a few days, Penn State will have played its first former Pac-12 squad and closed out its home stretch. On Wednesday, the Nittany Lions took to the indoor practice facility to get ready.

James Franklin gave an update on a surprising absentee from practice, looked ahead to UCLA and gave insight on managing the two-headed monster backfield.

### Nick Singleton's availability

While linebacker Dom DeLuca and offensive guard Sal Wormley returned to practice after injury, Nick Singleton was notably absent from the media's practice viewing session. When Franklin was asked if anything is going on that may impact his availability, he kept it short.

"No, not at this stage," Franklin said.

Singleton played in Saturday's contest and last recorded a stat with over 10 minutes left. He recorded 408 yards on 7.7 yards per carry and made the key chip-block followed by a truck that gained national attention against Illinois.

### Looking to UCLA

UCLA comes to Beaver Stadium for the first time since 1967. Bruins' starting quarterback Ethan Garbers was absent from practice Wednesday, prompting questions as to his availability.

Head coach DeShaun Foster said Garbers is "going to try" but left the possibility that the team holds him out. Franklin is aware of the situation and said as far as he's heard, the quarterback is expected to play.

If not, it'll be Justyn Martin, but with limited film, James Franklin said the team plans to control what it can control.

"We went back and watched his high school tape, but there's not a whole lot we can do," Franklin said. "This guy is, sup-

posedly, more of an athlete, so we get that — but we can't chase ghosts."

Martin replaced Garbers in contests against Oregon and Indiana but only attempted five passes. Additionally, Penn State is getting the chance to welcome UCLA to the Big Ten, and Franklin has a plan on how to welcome them.

"Cookies, and rainbows and puppies and send them gift baskets," Franklin joked. "We need to be prepared to beat em', we're not welcoming anyone into the Big Ten."

### Managing the backfield

With running back Cam Wallace out, Quinton Martin Jr. and Corey Smith are candidates to act as the running back No. 3. Martin, a freshman, played in the blowout against Kent State, recording a long of 10 yards. Smith is a redshirt freshman as well, but has seen more action.

Franklin commended the two backs but is being careful not to burn their redshirts, especially if it takes away from the top two backs — Singleton and Kaytron Allen.

"We want to make sure that both Kaytron and Nick get enough touches," Franklin said. "There's just not enough touches to go around."

The duo of backs came in the same recruiting class, and have had no issues on touches. With offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki joining the team, they've been able to keep the two on the field together.

Franklin added that they remind their running backs to look at the bigger picture.

"You don't want to be that back that, in your college experience, you carry the ball 800 times and people are concerned about how much wear and tear you have," Franklin said. "After some time and some seasoning, I think when they all look back on it — they'll all see the value."

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### Joel Haas



Haas

**What to watch for:** Penn State holds a huge advantage in this matchup, lining up one of the nation's best run defenses against a UCLA offense that ranks second to last in yards per game. Making the Bruins' offense one-dimensional will limit their scoring chances and the Nittany Lion offense should find ample success. Penn State will welcome UCLA to the Big Ten with a blowout in Beaver Stadium.

### Lyle Alenstein



Alenstein

**What to watch for:** UCLA will enter Beaver Stadium for the first time as a member of the Big Ten with the odds stacked against it. The Bruins have a trio of ranked losses to Oregon, LSU and Indiana, but hardly escaped against Hawaii with a 16-13 victory. With a weak rushing attack against a stacked Penn State defensive line and quarterback Ethan Garbers banged up, the Nittany Lions should run away with this one.

### Avery Hill



Hill

**What to watch for:** UCLA has had two shots at Big Ten competition, and was blown out in both. Under first-time head coach DeShaun Foster, the Bruins are in their rebuilding stage and will be competing in an unfamiliar, raucous environment. Playing the pass-heavy Bruins should give the Nittany Lions' defensive backs a chance to flex their muscles. Penn State will stay hot and win with ease.

### Lexie Linderman



Linderman

**What to watch for:** The Nittany Lions should have no trouble against UCLA in front of an electric, striped-out crowd, and will send the Bruins back to Los Angeles 1-4. UCLA has one of the worst rushing attacks in the country, while Penn State has one of the best run defenses. UCLA's pass game won't be enough to make Saturday's tilt close, especially with quarterback Ethan Garbers' status in question.

### Guest Picker: O.J. McDuffie

**Penn State wide receiver 1988-92**

**What to watch for:** The Bruins are looking for their second win of the season, but it will be tough sledging for them as they will play in a completely different environment than they are used to. The Stripe Out game only rivals the White Out game, which is really difficult for road teams. Count on the Nittany Lions to continue their power running game and run away with this one.



McDuffie

Score: Penn State 35, UCLA 14

Score: Penn State 37, UCLA 6

Score: Penn State 45, UCLA 3

Score: Penn State 45, UCLA 3

Score: Penn State 42, UCLA 7



# Fact-checking the debate

By Annelise Hanson & Tyler Nolt

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ohio Senator JD Vance and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz faced off in the 2024 vice presidential debate on Tuesday night, where they tackled many issues that could impact Penn State students.

Here are some debate claims from both candidates that have been fact-checked by Collegian politics reporters:

## Economy

**Vance:** “What (Harris has) actually done instead is drive the cost of food higher by 25%, drive the cost of housing higher by about 60%.”

This is misleading. Grocery prices have increased by 22% since Biden and Harris took office, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis’ Consumer Price Index. This occurred while housing prices have climbed 38%, as measured by the Case-Shiller home price index.

However, experts attribute the primary drivers of 2022’s peak inflation to post-pandemic supply chain disruptions and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. While the American Rescue Plan Act contributed to inflation, economists agree it wasn’t the root cause.

**Walz:** “(With Trump in office) there was an \$8 trillion increase in the national debt — the largest ever.”

This is true. When considering the increases in the United States’ national debt by presidential terms, the country under Trump saw about an \$8.5 trillion increase, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

This is largely due to a sharp increase of borrowing in the first quarter of 2020, equaling over \$3 trillion alone. In comparison, the national debt has so far risen by nearly \$6 trillion under Biden.



Republican Senator JD Vance and Democratic Governor Tim Walz squared off in Tuesday night’s vice presidential debate in New York City.

## Climate change

**Vance:** “If you really want to make the environment cleaner, you’ve got to invest in more energy production. We haven’t built a nuclear facility — I think one in the past 40 years. Natural gas — we have to invest more in it. Kamala Harris has done the opposite.”

This is misleading. While the United States experienced a long period without building new nuclear facilities, recent years have seen efforts to change this trajectory. The Vogtle Electric Generating Plant in Georgia has recently added two new nuclear reactors (Units 3 and 4), according to Southern Nuclear.

This posed significant milestones in U.S. nuclear construction. Unit 3 entered commercial service in 2023 and Unit 4 in 2024, making them the first newly constructed reactors in the U.S. in over three decades.

**Walz:** “Donald Trump called (climate change) a hoax and then joked that these things would

make more beachfront property to be able to invest in.”

This is true. Trump has made comments denying or belittling the importance of the climate crisis. At a 2022 rally in Anchorage, Alaska, he said, “We’ll have a little bit more beachfront property, that’s not the worst thing in the world.” However, he’s also since made statements confirming the existence of climate change.

## Reproductive rights

**Vance:** “I never supported a national ban. I did, when I was running for Senate in 2022, talk about setting some minimum national standard.”

This is misleading. While Vance was running for Senate in 2022, he said during a podcast interview that he’d like abortion to be “illegal nationally” and was “sympathetic” to a national ban that would prevent women from traveling to other states to seek care.

Vance’s website stated that he was “100% pro-life” and advocated eliminating abortion, which remained on his site until July when

Trump named him as his running mate.

**Walz:** “Project 2025 is going to make it more difficult, if not impossible to get contraception, and limit access, if not eliminate access to infertility treatments.”

This is false. According to Project 2025’s website, their goals as laid out in the book “Mandate for Leadership” mention nothing about restricting contraception or IVF treatments.

## Gun violence

**Vance:** “The gross majority — close to 90% in some of the statistics I’ve seen — of the gun violence in this country is committed with illegally obtained firearms.”

This needs context. Estimates on the proportion of gun crimes involving illegal firearms vary, but they do not reach 90%, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

A report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that 56% of offenders who used a gun in their crime either stole it, ob-

tained it off the street or through the underground market. This percentage may be higher in areas with stricter gun control laws but remains below the 90% figure.

**Walz:** “I’ve spent time in Finland and seen some Finnish schools. They don’t have this (epidemic of school shootings) happen even though they have a high gun ownership rate in the country.”

This is true. Even with the significant popularity of hunting and target practice in Finland, there have only been four school shootings in the country’s history, according to the BBC.

## Healthcare

**Vance:** “Donald Trump could have destroyed the program (Affordable Care Act). Instead, he worked in a bipartisan way to ensure that Americans had access to affordable care.”

This is misleading. During his presidency, Trump didn’t outwardly attempt to strengthen the Affordable Care Act. He supported efforts to repeal the law and undermine its provisions.

His administration reduced funding for enrollment outreach and navigators and supported legal challenges to eliminate the ACA. Under the Trump administration, the number of people enrolled declined from 12.7 million in 2016 to 11.4 million in 2020, according to KFF.

**Walz:** “Under Kamala Harris, more people are covered than they have before.”

This is likely true. It’s difficult to determine how many people were insured at a given time, but the United States Census Bureau has data supporting Walz’s claim. It states that between 2021 and 2022 over 300 million people became insured.

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# Student org hosts debate

By Tyler Nolt

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Uncensored America hosted a debate between Donald Trump-supporting YouTuber John Doyle and Kamala Harris-supporting Twitch streamer Steven Kenneth Bonnell II, better known by the username “Destiny,” on Monday night in the HUB-Robeson Center’s Heritage Hall.

About 150 people were in attendance and around 700 people watched through a live stream.

Uncensored America is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting for freedom of speech, according to its website. This is applied through its implementation of free speech extremism, which according to the organizers of the event, involves pushing boundaries of what’s considered acceptable and courteous speech.

The debate was centered around the question of who should be the next president of the United States and experienced initial difficulties, such as Bonnell’s flight being delayed — resulting in him debating through a video call and the event being delayed until 40 minutes after the scheduled start time.

The debate consisted of time for opening statements, rebuttals, responses to prepared questions, answers to questions from the audience and closing statements.

Eamon Foley said he thought Bonnell could have done more to convince the audience to vote for Harris.

“He spent most of his time bashing Trump, bashing Republicans, calling them delusional and stupid,” Foley, a fourth-year studying economics, said. “I don’t think that’s very effective, and so I think John Doyle probably had the better night, even though I do

disagree with him on one or two things.”

Austin Mathewson said he thought Doyle was too off topic with his anti-immigration views.

“I think that speaker John Doyle was kind of exposed for having a very seemingly nationalist-est immigration policy, saying that there’s people here that aren’t compatible, and that there’s only like a certain amount of people that he thinks like should be coming here,” Mathewson, a fourth-year studying political science, said. “I think if anything that’s just gonna fuel the fire against Donald Trump and people like that, because immigration is so important to our country.”

Helping to organize the debate was Luca Miraldi, a recent Penn State alumni and vice president of Uncensored America on the national level.

“(Our goal was) to bring new voices to campus, especially for a younger generation that’s maybe yearning for a little bit more something outside of, you know, the strictly credentialed and academic professionals,” Miraldi said. “What are the kids going to now? They’re going towards YouTube, they’re going towards alternative media.”

Miraldi also discussed the nature of the debate in comparison to those on a national level.

“It’s in our title — Uncensored America — that we don’t need to constantly add addendums and interrupt speakers to fact check them and all this and that,” Miraldi said. “We are not in the business of infantilizing our audience and thinking that, you know, they’re too stupid to look stuff up on their own.”

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# Beta Theta Pi leaders receive sentence

By Louise Bennett

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A Centre County judge sentenced the final two former Penn State Beta Theta Pi fraternity leaders involved in the 2017 hazing death of Timothy Piazza on Monday.

Judge Brian Marshall sentenced Brendan Young, former president, and Daniel Casey, former vice president and pledge master, to a minimum of two months in prison, three years of probation and \$500 in restitution.

The Commonwealth’s case against Young and Casey said a history of hazing, misuse of alcohol and video evidence of Piazza’s condition the night of the accident support the charges against the men.

During the sentencing hearing, friends and family members of Piazza shared stories with the court about Piazza’s life, goals and the impact of his death on their lives.

Evelyn Piazza, Timothy’s mother, said although the sentencing provided some justice, “there’s no such thing as closure.”

“I was happy being a tax accountant and having a family of four,” Evelyn, who now travels the country to share Timothy’s story and push for hazing legislation, said.

“You never in a million years think a ‘friend’ will actually intentionally hurt them in the name of brotherhood and then not value their life and refuse to get them medical attention. Granted, Brendan Young and Daniel Casey did not wake up the morning of February 2, 2016 thinking, ‘let’s kill someone today,’ but they did.”

CEO and General Counsel of Beta Theta Pi’s national chapter, Jeff Rundle, said the fraternity supports the court’s



Courtesy of Will Aguirre

Brendan Young and Daniel Casey were sentenced at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte, Pa.

decision.

“While we cannot speak to the appropriate punishment for Brendan Young and Daniel Casey, the fraternity has consistently advocated for those involved to be held fully accountable,” Rundle said, adding the incident has negatively impacted the fraternity.

“Tim’s death has left an indelible scar on our history. We will forever carry the burden that he suffered at the hands of those who bore Beta Theta Pi,” Rundle said. “These men were once brothers who took an oath to protect each other, and to act in each other’s best interest. Their failure is a reminder to all of us of the deadly consequences of hazing, carelessness and indifference.”

Young and Casey said during their testimony they feel remorse and regret over their decision seven years ago.

“I especially regret not being

more responsible and ensuring the safety of the pledges — especially Tim Piazza,” Young said.

Young said he also should have called for help to ensure Piazza’s safety.

“As the president, the brothers of the fraternity looked up to me to make the right decisions. I ultimately failed,” Young said.

The court also ordered Young and Casey to pay \$1 in restitution to Evelyn and Jeff Piazza with the contingency there will be a trial to determine the exact restitution owed.

Other fraternity members faced charges as co-defendants with Young and Casey, including Michael Bonatucci, Nicholas Kubera, Jonah Neuman, Michael Schiavone and Joshua Kurczewski, with the most recent sentencing in 2019.

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# NITTANY LIONS MARCH ON



**Linebacker Kobe King** sacks Illinois quarterback Luke Altmyer during the Penn State Homecoming game. Five Nittany Lions tallied sacks during the game.



**The Nittany Lion mascot** enters during team arrival wearing Penn State's original black and pink.



**Nick Dawkins** makes a face at the camera as he celebrates Penn State football's win.



**Drew Allar** warms up in an empty Beaver Stadium before the Homecoming game.



**Ta'Mere Robinson and Zion Tracy** laugh as they sing the alma mater after Penn State won the Homecoming game against Illinois.



**Fireworks** go off above Beaver Stadium after Penn State's Homecoming win against Illinois. Head coach James Franklin called for "White Out energy," and Nittany Lion fans delivered.



**A Chinese dragon** floats through the streets of State College during the Homecoming Parade.



**Blue Band Drum Major Carson Pedaci** yells into the camera after the band's performance before the Homecoming football game against Illinois.

# HOMECOMING ENERGY



**The Singing Lions** perform a song during Guard the Lion Shrine, an event held every year after the Homecoming Parade.



**The Penn State Lionettes dance team** dances to "Sweet Caroline" during the Homecoming football game against Illinois.







MY VIEW | JADZIA SANTIAGO

# The importance of the TMI friendship

Okay, I know what you thought when you read the title of this column — Jaz, what?



Santiago

I get it. When you think of TMI, or too much information, you probably think of the things that you absolutely don't need or want to know about your friends, loved ones and acquaintances.

Believe me, I know there's a time and place, and there's definitely stuff I don't want discussed at dinner. However, I've been browsing social media and noticing a common pattern: people enjoying friendships where nothing is off the table — friendships where you can talk about anything and it's not weird or uncomfortable.

If you ask me, TMI friendships are a good thing.

Much of what we think of as TMI is understandably excluded from some conversations, especially depending on our relation-

ship to the person. But in very close friendships or relationships, it often isn't boundaries or decorum keeping these topics off the table — it's stigma.

According to Merriam-Webster, stigma is "a set of negative and unfair beliefs that a society or group of people have about something." Essentially, it's negative connotations placed on certain topics or things, leading to shame in talking about or being affected by them.

Stigma can lead to subjects like physical, mental and reproductive health, and experiences with bigotry or abuse being shut out of conversation. As a result, many suffer in silence.

I know very well, because I have. When I came out on the other side of that hurt, I knew one thing for sure: silence is the antithesis of progress.

Over time, especially during my time as a reporter, I learned how many individuals are impacted by not feeling able to talk about the issues affecting them.

Some may not know that they're experiencing a mental

or physical health issue, or may believe that their pain is normal. Some may not know that things they've experienced were violations of their right to safely exist.

On top of it all, some may feel like they're the only person in the world who feels the way they do.

The consequences of this isolation can be devastating.

It can mean diagnoses stalled or never reached, social progress halted and even lives lost.

When we don't talk about stigmatized subjects in our everyday lives, we allow them to continue and sometimes increase their harm.

But data shows that conversation can help counter this harm and contribute to progress.

In a 2018 study published in Psychiatric Services, communication strategies involving personal stories with mental health, substance use and other struggles helped increase the public's openness to funding for treatment.

Essentially, people sharing their stories helped decrease

stigma and open the doors for change.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that you need to be open to talking about everything, with everyone, all of the time.

It's OK to have boundaries and subjects you aren't comfortable talking about. Not every friend will be the one you can talk about anything with, and you don't have to be that friend to everyone.

I'm also not asking you to publicly announce your own struggles, especially since that's my job (kidding).

However, conversations about stigmatized topics happen more often than you think. For example, "girl talk" is a type of conversation where primarily girls and women share their experiences.

For many, "girl talk" is a safe space to learn about life milestones, what is or isn't healthy and how to navigate a world in which gender discrimination exists.

Other examples include social media users posting about health

issues, individuals forming support groups and professionals like researchers, therapists and reporters doing their jobs.

Even asking a friend if your headache is normal qualifies as an example.

Doesn't seem so scary now, does it?

As a culture, we need to be more comfortable with listening, which means we need to become more comfortable with talking.

So, by all means, if all parties are okay with it, continue fostering your TMI friendships.

Keep talking about all of the details and keep supporting each other. In my experience, you may even get some laughs out of it.

More importantly, you might just become a part of something bigger than yourself, without even knowing it.

**Jadzia Santiago** is a columnist and DEI committee member for The Daily Collegian. She is a third-year double majoring in English and communication arts and sciences. Email her at [Jas9280@psu.edu](mailto:Jas9280@psu.edu) and follow her on X at [@JadziaASantiago](https://twitter.com/JadziaASantiago)



Cartoons by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | JULIA FREDERICK

# Surviving an unconventional major

"What are you going to do with an English degree?"

I can't speak for any other field besides English, but I'm sure those in the College of the Liberal Arts have faced similar questions before.

When people ask me what my major is, I immediately have to prepare for the various follow-up questions and concerned looks.

If your major doesn't subscribe to the immediate degree-to-career pipeline, it's often seen as an expensive mistake. Especially if you aren't in STEM or business, it's exhausting to continually feel like you have to prove your value.

I started off in the Division of Undergraduate Studies as an intended finance major. After a while, I realized that finance, and business as a whole, wasn't the right fit for me.

In my heart, I knew I wanted to study English, but I was terrified. There's a stigma that liberal arts degrees are easy and won't get you employed.

Hearing people joke about being a liberal arts major was discouraging. It almost dissuaded me from pursuing some-



Isabella Viteri/Collegian

thing that I really love.

What many don't realize is in English, like in many liberal arts or communications fields, students learn more than strictly the subject matter. My time as an English major has prepared me for the professional world in ways I didn't expect.

According to Southern New Hampshire University, fields like writing, psychology and history teach students important soft skills such as collaboration, critical thinking and effective communication.

For these reasons, it's easy to understand why 80% of employers value a "strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences" according to a 2018 study by the Association of American Colleges & Universities.

Due to the versatility and adaptability of liberal arts studies, graduates with these degrees can work in various professions.

Alumni who graduated from Stanford University with a degree in English have pursued

careers in education, law, publishing, public relations and technology, to name a few.

That being said, it's important to be realistic. You need to have an idea of the occupational outcomes of your major and how that impacts your life financially.

Choosing at random and not having a plan isn't a good idea.

From my experience, if you're passionate about a field that doesn't have a set career path, there are costs and benefits, and you have to be willing to put in the extra work.

You need to be able to market your skills, build a resume and think unconventionally. No one is going to hand you a job just because you are a specific major. You need to be able to articulate your background and experience.

Degrees take hard work, regardless of the field. Don't discredit other majors.

Our world needs all disciplines. From filmmaking to engineering, and English to accounting, we all have a place at Penn State.

**Julia Frederick** is a columnist for the Daily Collegian. She is a third-year studying English with a minor in technical writing and a business fundamentals certificate. Email her at [Jmf7052@psu.edu](mailto:Jmf7052@psu.edu) and follow her on X at [@julia75826](https://twitter.com/julia75826)

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## DAILY COLLEGIAN

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# ROCK AND ‘ROLL’ IN THE BJC

**By Ella Hileman**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Jelly Roll’s music blared from the Bryce Jordan Center on Tuesday night as students, adults and children alike sang along. The American singer, songwriter and rapper brought two openers along with him for the evening. Alexandra Kay, an independent artist, kicked off the night. A fan handed Kay a bracelet during her song “Painted Him Perfect.” Kay thanked the fan and held her hand after the interaction. Warren Zeiders, Jelly Roll’s second opener, revealed that he performed his first live show at Champs Downtown, during his set. “It feels so good to be back home in Pennsylvania,” he said. Zeiders’ set included songs such as “Pretty Little Poison” and “Relapse.” In between sets, DJ Hylte and DJ Chill performed in the back of the venue, playing music by Morgan Wallen, Post Malone and other artists. Fans could also use their free time to purchase Jelly Roll’s merchandise. The options included sweatshirts and T-shirts. Jelly Roll opened his performance by walking through the lower level of the venue. Fans



Noah Aberegg/Collegian

**Jelly Roll** points at the camera during the Beautifully Broken Tour at the Bryce Jordan Center on Oct. 1, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

gave him high fives as he walked to the back stage area with his wife, Bunnie XO. His first song of the night was “I Am Not Okay.” Jelly Roll sang while the visual structure of a house caught fire behind him as fans screamed along. “When my wife and I walked out here, I could feel the spirit of rock ‘n’ roll,” he said.

Jelly Roll continued with “Son of a Sinner” before performing some cover songs he listened to while growing up. The collection of covers included “Friends in Low Places” by Garth Brooks and “Man! I Feel Like a Woman!” by Shania Twain, which he brought Kay back out for. Connor Campion said that “Son

of a Sinner,” was his favorite song of the night. “I love the way Jelly Roll interacts with his audience,” Campion, a fourth-year studying nursing, said. “And the way that the audience reacts back to him.” Kylie Sourbeck, a student of Lock Haven University, agreed with Campion about her favor-

ite part of the night, but said her favorite song was “She.” Beautifully Broken Tour, Jelly Roll wave Jelly Roll also performed his song, normally featuring Machine Gun Kelly, “Lonely Road” for the crowd. Purple and yellow lights flashed across the stage for the duration of the song. The stage also featured a large skull head with a crown and tattoos that matched Jelly Roll’s own. The skull became a recurring theme throughout the concert, with a cracked skull coming down from the ceiling later on in the show and a green light reflecting through it. Jelly Roll also touched base on what performing and concert environments mean to him throughout the show. He referred to the concert as a “family reunion” multiple times during the night. “Tonight is about turning our pain into purpose,” he said. He went on to express what music means to him and his team in general. “It’s more than just music to us,” Jelly Roll said. “It’s medicine.” The singer will release his new album on Friday, Oct. 11, and fans in the BJC were given preorder access to the album via a QR code displayed on the big screen during the concert.

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## Fall festivities

**By Madison Schmitt**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the first day of autumn a week behind us, the temperatures are finally starting to cool down, and the colors of nature are rapidly changing. In State College, we’re lucky enough to experience all four seasons, and the beauty of fall is no exception. The yellow and orange leaves cascading off the trees on your walk to class always make for a very picturesque event. So, let’s go spend a fall day in downtown State College. The first stop we’re making is Sowers Harvest Café. This is my absolute favorite place to grab

brunch and the perfect start to our autumn afternoon. Its freshly made pretzels are to die for, and a strawberry lemonade smoothie will always heal my soul. Not to mention, the cafe’s aesthetic feels like something right out of “Gilmore Girls.” Next, let’s hit up the Downtown State College Farmers Market. Starting in 1976, this market is a State College staple serving local residents, students and visitors. My roommates and I always make sure to grab a latte at the Idou Coffee Co. truck before stopping over to make a bouquet of fresh-cut flowers for our living room. Afterward, take a quick stop down the street to do a little

shopping at the Nittany Quill. This adorable store is one of my favorites and features handmade paper products and artwork among other small items. Next, let’s take a short detour up through campus and relax in the garden area of the Hintz Family Alumni Center. This is absolutely my favorite place to decompress and soak up how beautiful Penn State’s campus truly is. Not to mention, the duck pond is always fun to look at, and if you’re lucky, the ducks might just waddle over to you to say hello. After enjoying some quiet time, head back downtown to continue your autumn day.



Noah Aberegg/Collegian

**A duck** eats from the ground of the Hintz Family Alumni Center on Sept. 5, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

As the evening approaches, check out the State Theatre to see which movies are playing that night. With Halloween quickly sneaking up, there’s no shortage of scary films to choose from on the movie venue’s roster. I’m personally a big fan of horror movies, but if they’re not your thing, you can always attend the State Theatre’s showing of “Scooby-Doo.” Lastly, let’s go ahead and end our day by getting a sweet treat at Duck Donuts. People often forget about this hidden gem because it’s tucked away on South Fraser Street, but after a long day, it’s one of my favorite dessert choices. You can either order off their menu of pre-made donuts, or create your own custom concoction. And there you have it — the perfect fall day spent in downtown State College.

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## THON 2025 theme announced

**By Cearra O’Hern**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State THON announced “A Home For Hope” as its theme for THON 2025 on Friday. THON 2025 will take place from Feb. 21-23.

“Home is not a place, but a feeling,” the release said. “A Home For Hope aims to capture the feeling of love, joy and community that THON shares with all those involved: students, supporters and our families.” THON is the world’s largest

student-run philanthropy that aims to provide emotional and financial support to Four Diamonds families who have been impacted by childhood cancer.

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Jackson Ranger/Collegian File Photo

**The THON Executive Committee** reveals the total amount of money raised at the end of the THON 2024 at the Bryce Jordan Center.



Courtesy of Sienna Pinney

**The Stupid Cupid bowl and the Costa bowl** are among the many options at Playa Bowls in State College, Pa.

## Best bowls downtown

**By Sienna Pinney**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Since the beginning of time, there has been a debate over the best vessel to eat food from. Obviously, bowls are where it’s at. The best things in life come in bowls – postseason college football games, açai covered in fresh fruit, ice cream, soup, crunchy salads and more. Whether you’re craving something sweet, cold, crunchy or savory, downtown State College has you covered. These are my favorite things to eat in State College that come in bowls.

**Açai bowls** If you’re looking for an açai bowl the size of your face with a menu that just keeps going, Playa Bowls is the place to be. While these bowls can be on the pricey side, the endless options and quality make it worth it. I’ve yet to try one of their bowls and be disappointed.

**Burrito bowls** I love burritos, but sometimes I need something I can eat with a fork. Burritos are made to fall apart, so skip the mess and order in a bowl to start. While Chipotle has delicious burrito bowls, I think we’re all familiar with their inconsistent scooping that can lead to sad, expensive bowls. For a cost-friendly option, head over to Yallah Taco and order their rice bowl for the burrito bowl experience on a budget.

**Ramen** Dad, I hope you’re proud of me for this section. I believe ramen is the greatest invention ever. Is the authentic version better? Absolutely. But sometimes you need ramen that takes two minutes to prepare and leaves you feeling like life is just a little bit more joyful than it was a few minutes ago. We’re broke college students, so instant ramen has to be good enough most of the time. When you’ve got some spare change, there are a few places to get a good bowl of ramen in State College. Tadashi on College Avenue is usually the first option that comes up in conversation, with several menu options rang-

ing from Spicy Miso Ramen to Geki Kara Tsukemen, otherwise known as spicy dipping ramen. The portions are generous and there are other menu items for when you’re not feeling ramen. But you should always be in the mood for ramen. But Kokoro is my favorite ramen spot in State College. Their kitchen produces joy. The pork ramen and spicy beef ramen have never done me wrong, but their menu is full of delicious options. It’s also worth highlighting the staff — they are by far the friendliest staff in all of State College.

**Soups and salads** Oh Panera. It always comes back to you, doesn’t it? There’s a reason soup and salad often appear together in the Panera Bread “You Pick Two” deal. With a new fireside chili option to bring the fall flavors to your taste buds, the combinations are endless. If you’re really looking for the peak bowl experience, you can upgrade your soup to a bread bowl and see what life is really worth living for. If you’re sick or in need of comfort, wonton soup is the cure. There are a few places to get good wonton soup in State College, including Big Bowl Noodle House and Osaka & Bei Jing. If you’re not in the mood for a soup with your salad, treat yourself to a salad at Fiddlehead. The bob cobb and las cantinas salads are my favorite.

**Big Bowl Noodle House** In a review of State College foods that come in bowls, it would be heartless to exclude Big Bowl Noodle House. While many of the dishes don’t come in a bowl, but rather in a plate that is deeper than a regular plate but not quite a bowl, everything is delicious nonetheless. The menu is extensive, so I fear I haven’t made a dent in trying most of it, but everything I’ve eaten has been hearty and delicious. In the best way, I’ve never finished my meal at Big Bowl, but the leftovers make for a top-tier second meal. There’s no bowl in State College better than Big Bowl.

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# ‘That person could be you’

## Penn State men’s hockey discusses neck protection

By Evan Smith  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Oct. 28, 2023, the sport of hockey witnessed an on-ice tragedy when former NHL forward Adam Johnson died after an errant skate cut his throat during a game in England.

The incident was the second publicized skate-related death in the last few years. In 2022, 16-year-old Teddy Balkind died from a skate cut during a high school hockey game in Connecticut.

Nearing the anniversary of Johnson’s death, the hockey world remains engulfed in dialogue about the lack of enforced protection on vulnerable parts of players’ bodies.

In the case of Johnson, the NHL connection, severity of the injury, virality of the video recording and ensuing legal investigation shot the story out of the sports realm and into the mainstream media.

The result of this coverage from outside of the hockey landscape were discussions that didn’t take players’ thoughts into consideration.

The public debate centered around the catastrophic potential of an accident and the sparseness of accidents that have occurred.

“It’s interesting, it’s happened maybe three or four times in the history of hockey, like 100-plus years,” Penn State captain Jimmy Dowd Jr. said. “But that person could be you.”



Chris Eutsler/Collegian

**A Penn State men’s hockey player** lies in the goal during the game against Wisconsin inside the Pegula Ice arena on Feb. 24, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

Within Penn State men’s hockey, the players encapsulate both sides of the debate.

Skaters who are used to the protection, like defenseman Carson Dyck, support expanding the use of neck guards.

“I grew up wearing a neck guard, and now you see a lot of players taking that initiative,” Dyck said. “I think it’s a great thing for the hockey community to take that to the next level.”

Forward Matt DiMarsico experienced an environment where neck guards were required at the Pittsburgh Penguins development camp.

“There’s now Kevlar shirts that have (neck guards) attached, so it feels like there’s no difference to me,” DiMarsico said.

However, not everyone feels positive about new equipment, especially under a potential mandate to wear them.

“I think it should be completely the players’ choice,” forward Reese Laubach said.

The sport of hockey carries an intrinsic risk that other sports don’t, as players wear skates on an unpredictable ice surface. The players understand this risk but trust in their ability to stay safe during games.

“You can’t really get an even playing field on a mandate,” forward Danny Dzhaniev said. “It’s tough to say you want to wear it because it’s not part of your game.”

Hockey is generally a superstitious community, so asking players to change their gear can be a big ask, especially at the collegiate level.

Laubach sees the benefits of modernized equipment standards, but he understands why players would be reluctant to change the gear they’ve used throughout their careers.

“People probably think every-

one should wear them, but it’s tough to say because they don’t know the feeling,” Laubach said. “It’s different for each player even down to things like what your family thinks about it.”

Leagues around the world have begun enforcing neck guards for players, including the American Hockey League and the IIHF, the sports governing body who oversees international tournaments, including the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Other leagues, including the NHL, are unlikely to mandate neck guards, especially with a history of stubbornness toward medical standards. This is seen in NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman’s continuous denial of links between hockey hits and CTE.

Coach Guy Gadowsky said he will leave discussions on the topic to the NCAA and Big Ten Conference, which have yet to take a stance on the issue.

“There’s been talk at the league level, so I’ll leave that up to people a lot smarter than me,” Gadowsky said.

For most players, the lead issue holding them back from wholly embracing the use of neck protection is the comfortability of wearing the guards.

“They’re pretty uncomfortable,” Laubach said. “But obviously, there’s more important things than being comfortable.”

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# Starck sets, Starck spikes

By Andrew Deal  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

“I don’t think there’s too many people that can say that they’ve played a college sport with their brother or sister,” coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley said.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” Izzy said. “It’s definitely a lot different than high school was for us.”

Izzy played her final season in Viera, Florida, before making the early transition to collegiate volleyball in spring 2024.

The players have consistently

While the sisters’ off-court relationship is tight, it’s on the court where their connection is the strongest.

Izzy has assisted on Anjelina’s 19 kills this season, while Anjelina has returned the favor, digging the ball to set up kills for Izzy.

“Just playing has been good because we both see different points of the game,” Izzy said. “She helps out a lot on the court.”

Anjelina has made the transition to collegiate volleyball much easier for her younger sister, and the accolades Izzy has been recognized for reflect the mentorship she’s received.

Izzy has taken home Big Ten Freshman of the Week three times and recently secured her first recognition as Big Ten Setter of the Week.

“(Izzy) hasn’t shown that the pressure has been bothering her at all,” Anjelina said. “She comes on the court and she just plays.”

While Izzy’s handled the competition thus far, her sister will always be her biggest competitor.

“I definitely trash talk her a little more than anyone else on the team,” Anjelina said.

It wasn’t just Anjelina that brought up the competitive fuel that the two have. Schumacher-Cawley chimed in as well, highlighting the beauty in such a competitive relationship.

“They’re like best friends and they’re really competitive, but in a positive way,” Schumacher-Cawley said.

The sisters continue to shine for the Nittany Lions, sharing the court as starters. Their relationship has naturally made the rest of the team closer, a key reason why Penn State is ranked No. 3 in the AVCA rankings.

Next year will feature another set of siblings, as Caroline Jurevicius’ sister, Ava, will join her in Happy Valley.

Caroline has been taking mental notes about how Anjelina and Izzy treat each other, noticing that the Starcks are calm, cool and collected together.

“We have a different dynamic than Anjelina and Izzy. They’re very calm, cool and collected together. My sister is a gem, so we’ll see how this relationship evolves,” Jurevicius said.

That calm mentality on the court has helped them find immediate success, both as sisters and as a team, en route to a dominant 12-1 start.

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Jackson Ranger/Collegian

**Char Morett-Curtiss** promotes the Teammates for Life initiative during a community day scrimmage for the Penn State softball team.

# Celebrating Char

By Ella Kurovsky  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Nittany Lions welcomed alumni, students and faculty on Sunday to the dedication of the Char Morett-Curtiss Field. Named after longtime head coach and former Nittany Lion Char Morett-Curtiss, the field was one of many additions to the growing atmosphere of Penn State sports.

Before the Nittany Lions faced Lafayette in a rainy match, Penn State field hockey alumni and other members of the program gathered in the freshly built press box above the stands to share a few words. Graduates from Penn State Harrisburg, DuBois, Altoona and University Park returned to honor the ceremonial day.

In an afternoon of nostalgia and remembrance, the crowd came together to take pictures with the Nittany Lion, enjoy snacks and beverages and bring the 2024 Homecoming weekend to an end.

Morett-Curtiss announced her retirement last year after a monumental 39-year career with the Nittany Lions. She carries a deep history with Penn State as an alumni herself and led the field hockey team to 541 career wins, 30 NCAA appearances and more.

Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi took to the field, with the current team proudly standing behind. She thanked Morrett-Curtiss for her dedication to Penn State athletics and all she had done.

“Char, through hard work and moral character, you are a role model,” Bendapudi said. “Women who play sports and are parts of these teams go on to change the world. If you look at the executive ranks, you see how many attribute their success to what they did on and off the field.”

Following Bendapudi, Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Patrick Kraft thanked the fans for their support and spoke briefly to welcome the

crowd. “I am blessed to have the greatest group of men and women participating and representing us as an institution,” Kraft said. “We have led the charge in women’s athletics and Penn State has always done it right. Penn State will continue to do it right, but what Char has done to lead young women into a better life, not just in sports here, but also after is absolutely incredible.”

Current head coach Lisa Bervinchak Love joined Morett-Curtiss on the turf with sticks in hand to officially open the match with a ceremonial pass. Bervinchak Love was named head coach following Morett-Curtiss’ retirement.

She returns this year for her second season as head coach and her 31st year with Penn State staff.

Since her initial arrival as assistant coach, Bervinchak Love has made 23 NCAA appearances and helped produce 31 NFHCA first-team All-Americans.

“Char is the heart and soul of Penn State field hockey,” Bervinchak Love said. “Her passion for this sport, her work ethic, and her heart is great. It’s huge that her name is on the field because she’s given so much of herself to the program we all love.”

With a heightened atmosphere, the Nittany Lions won the contest against Lafayette, 5-1. The blue and white has capitalized on its ability to score first and gain the upperhand for the remainder of its matches.

“It was good progress today. On our corner execution, I would like us to still be playing a little lower and not giving up corners,” Bervinchak Love said. “But I thought we executed them well and it was really nice to see that today.”

Now, after winning their sixth straight game of the season, the Nittany Lions are keeping their momentum steady and will face Iowa next Friday.

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Noah Aberegg/Collegian

**Penn State outside hitter Anjelina Starck** spikes the ball in the Penn State Invitational against St. John’s on Sept. 14, 2024.



Emma Lessick/Collegian

**Setter Izzy Starck** sets the ball during a women’s volleyball game against Michigan State at Rec Hall on Sept. 29, 2024.

The Starck sisters are doing just that for Penn State women’s volleyball.

Anjelina Starck entered Penn State in 2021 as the No. 13 overall recruit in her class. Four years later, she was joined by her sister and No. 1 overall recruit in the class of 2024, Izzy Starck.

The Starck sisters played together in high school and have showcased that chemistry this season. Now, the sisters are competing at the highest level for Penn State and are a major reason for the team’s success.

brought up how close they are, and having a set of sisters on the team has helped them connect further.

“It’s very convenient,” senior setter Quinn Menger said. “(Izzy) is my best friend’s little sister. I treat her like I’m her big sister.”

The sisters have taken every chance to spend time together, understanding that opportunities like this don’t come often.

“We’ll have dinner ... so I’ll go over to her house and she’ll make me dinner or I’ll make her dinner and it’s been super fun,” Anjelina said.