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'WE DON'T OWN LAND'

The continued journey toward land acknowledgement

By Jocelyn Bilker THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

State College is in the process of adopting an official land acknowledgment, a practice rooted in Indigenous tradition and used by non-Indigenous communities to recognize and honor the original stewards of the land.

Though no formal statement has been adopted by the State College Borough, conversations continue within local government and community groups about what such an acknowledgment should include and represent.

Kathryn Pletcher said it's important to move beyond a "geographically accurate and historical statement" in the process of a land acknowledgment.

Pletcher, an administrative support manager at Penn State and enrolled tribal member of The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, said the university needs to go further to reflect on the attempted erasure of Indigenous peoples and historic trauma caused by colonialism. As a result, she created her own land acknowledgment.

In it, Pletcher said she expressed gratitude for being able to live and work on the unceded territories of various Native American nations, recognizing herself as a guest on those

"We don't own land," Pletcher said. "That was a colonial business. Indigenous people are the spiritual and physical knowledge keepers of this land to which we now all belong.'

Pletcher said acknowledgment isn't just about acknowledging the past occupants of the land.

"Sometimes people think, 'Oh, all they have to do is recite who fore us is just the first sentence. land acknowledgments. You can't just stop with that."

discussing



Old Main sits at the heart of Penn State's campus on July 15, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

history of the land, Pletcher said Indigenous Indigenous people were violently removed and faced attempted erasure through genocide and practices like the forced removal of children to Indian boarding schools.

(in the land acknowledgment), perspectives." you probably shouldn't even have one," Pletcher said.

To illustrate the limitations of shallow agreements, Pletcher said she had an analogy to help explain the depth and importance of the acknowledgment.

"What if I came to your house and I stole your car from the driveway because I could?" Pletcher said. "Then 10 or 20 years later, I come back and I stand in your driveway and say, 'Hey, I recognize that your car used to be in your driveway ... but now I have your car.' Without acknowledging I committed a crime ... it's not an apology."

Similarly, Wanda "Acknowledging who was here be-bilities of institutions that issue or perceived as tokenistic."

communities," Knight, a member of Penn State's Racial Equity Advisory Commission, said. "This involves consulting with Indigenous leaders and organizations to ensure that the acknowledgment is mean-"If you don't include all of that ingful and truly reflects their

> "A land acknowledgment, when done authentically and respectfully, can be a fundamental step toward broader truth-telling and reconciliation

within a community."

Wanda Knight

Knight acknowledgment or else it has the acknowledgments are those cre- we come from, where we are equity job is done," Pletcher said. emphasizes the ethical responsi- potential to be counterproductive ated through direct consulta- and where our future is directed

> "For instance. "Institutions must seek to acknowledgments can increase the build relationships with local awareness of the trauma inflicted Resolution 1375 in relation to the

on Indigenous peoples through colonization, displacement from their land, forced assimilation and forms of oppression," other Knight said.

For some, the purpose of a land acknowledgment extends beyond symbolic recognition.

"Recognizing the land where people gather is a tradition for many Indigenous communities and nations," Knight said. "For non-Indigenous communities, it is a way to show respect and honor the Indigenous peoples of the land where we work and live."

As local leaders continue discussing how to frame an acknowledgment, the involvement of Indigenous voices remains a priority.

Indigenous "Some communities may have been consulted in shaping the language of the land acknowledgment," Knight said meaningful action Knight said. "However, the most must follow the adoption of a land impactful and respectful land tion and collaboration with the toward," Narayanan said. land relevant Indigenous nations.'

Prithvi Narayanan proposed

land acknowledgment in 2022 to former borough council president Jesse Barlow.

The resolution's goals include underscoring the history of Indigenous peoples in State College, emphasizing awareness and solidarity with them and formalizing the borough's relations to recognize Indigenous community members, their history and how to take the next steps.

While Narayanan, a former student representative of State College High School to the State College Borough, isn't part of the State College Borough council, he remains involved with the resolution.

Narayanan said resolution directs the borough to make a comprehensive report on the history of Indigenous Native peoples of the land within the State College borough. He said it also "encourages the development of a land acknowledgment" at borough meetings.

Currently, Narayanan is still involved in conversations with the Indigenous Peoples Student Association.

"We've also reached out to some of the traditional Indigenous peoples whose homelands we currently are now on ... the Susquehannock people," Narayanan said.

Narayanan said motivation to be an integral part of the land acknowledgment stemmed from his lack of learning about Indigenous peoples while in school.

"My hope is that we foster a deliberative culture in our borough ... and secure a future where we have a more comprehensive understanding of where

> To email reporter: jpb6798@psu.edu. Follow her on X @jocelyn_bilker.

advocates for liberation, exposure

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Justice in Palestine (SJP) are emphasizing student awareness, empowerment and activism this fall semester in the midst of ongoing war in Palestine.

Roua Daas said she has two goals for this semester: advocating for Palestinian liberation and growing the student organization on campus.

Palestinians in Gaza are facing devastating conditions, said Daas, a fourth-year doctoral student studying psychology and women's, gender and sexuality studies.

"We are 700 days into Israel's genocide on Gaza," Daas said. "Israel is currently enacting a starving campaign where they aren't allowing essential supplies into Gaza, and it has led to the death of hundreds of Palestinians, including children who are malnourished. Israel launched its ground

invasion into Gaza, which Daas said is an escalation in genocide, brutality and an intrusion on Gaza's sovereignty that doesn't belong to Isarel's international law.

Daas said she believes there

has been a target on journalists over the past few decades and can be seen through Israel's State Students for escalation with Iran during the summer.

"As a student organization, it is critical for us to advocate for Palestinian liberatuon and ensure our campus does not forget that this genocide is happening now," Daas said.

SJP seeks to continue creating a space for all students who are willing to fight for justice.

anti-zionist, are anti-imperialist and we are projustice, pro-liberation and antioppression of anyone across the world," Daas said. "If you believe in justice for all, if you believe that genocide is wrong, we are the group for that."

Sergio Peña said he believes pushing for liberation and greater political conscience are the goals for SJP.

"It's important more now than ever to push for greater political conscience on campus around what's going on in Gaza based on the escalation of the genocide with the targeted killings of journalists, bombardment of healthcare infrastructure and the escalation of warfare on





Protesters watch Roua Daas, a graduate student studying psychology, speak at the protest in support of Palestine in front of the Allen Street Gates on Feb. 12, 2024 in State College, Pa.

Peña, a third-year PhD student leave SJP with a greater sense sciences and women's, gender and sexuality studies, said.

Peña said he found last year's political climate discouraging. However, he said it was encouraging to see student activists in the Palestine movement continue to push forward despite repression from the Trump administration.

Joining organizations like SJP is important for students to not lose hope and to make changes that support the communities here in State College and around the world, according to Peña.

"We believe that people on campus really need to pay attention to our work because our work demonstrates that students have power individually to make change happen," Peña said.

Peña said he hopes students

studying communication arts and of empowerment and agency to make change on campus, but also to learn skills that students can take away from when they leave Penn State.

Tahir Haideri plans to continue advocating for Palestinian liberation and freedom by creating greater awareness among the student body.

"I think it's really important that our university and our institutions are democratic places where the will of the student body and its members are amplified and listened to," Haideri, a fourth-year doctoral student studying biomedical engineering,

Haideri said he hopes student's voices are prioritized and not an afterthought because institutions like Penn State ultimately belong to the students and are here to serve their interests, "which includes not being a party to genocide."

SJP aims to educate students on the current ongoing conflict, its historical context and how it all got to this point, according to Haideri.

"It takes a process of dehumanization over several decades to be able to enact a genocide in the way that we are seeing things now unfold and want students to feel empowered to take action," Haideri said. "It's very important to empower our fellow students and members of this community to realize the potential power that they hold in radically changing our societies for the better."

> To email reporter: rxo5139@psu.edu. Follow her on X @ru64014_rubi.

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LOVE TRIANGLES IN MEDIA

What's the point? Professors, students weigh in

By Katie Herron THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Every few years, the world is more wild or bad." faced with a polarizing choice.

In 2010, it was "Team Edward" or "Team Jacob," and now with the release of Amazon Prime Video's "The Summer I Turned Pretty," it's "Team Jeremiah" or "Team Conrad."

Popular television shows like "My Life with the Walter Boys," "The Vampire Diaries" and "Never Have I Ever" incorporate scenarios where one character must choose between two love interests. While the character is struggling to make their choice, the viewers pick their own sides, passionately rooting for their fa-

These societal splits occur because of a popular storytelling device called "love triangles," but what makes love triangles so effective in capturing the audience's attention?

Cory Barker, assistant teaching professor of film production and media studies, has multiple theories on why love triangles stay popular in the media. He believes one possibility is the audience's ability to put themselves in the shoes of the central character.

"There's something about when you connect with characters, you in some ways relate to them, you empathize with them, you put yourself in their position," Barker said

Barker believes this connection with the main character makes viewers feel personally connected to the romantic choices characters make. Audience members insert their own beliefs and preferences into what makes each love interest the better choice.

"There's often one (love interest) that's sort of the reasonable,

up as such," Barker said. "Then rad) had together," Alderman experience," Herlands, a secondthe other one might be a little bit

He believes people enjoy analyzing the team they side with and deciding what that choice says about them — do they choose what is safe and comfortable, or what is more exciting and dan-

"I think it allows you to work

through as a viewer, just as the main character does, 'what type of person do I want to be with? Barker said. "What type of person am I attracted to in the shortterm or the long-term?" Another enticing factor of love

triangles, according to Barker, is the suspense and unpredictability of the outcome, like solving a murder mystery. 'You're always doing that dance

of trying to predict who they're gonna end up with, without totally ruining what you're watching in the moment," he said. Penn State students are not

immune to the popularity of love triangles, tuning in for watch parties and classroom debates. Lily Alderman felt that enticing

pull to discover what would happen between the three main characters of "The Summer I Turned Pretty." "It offers a sense of action and

suspense that an action movie would give you with superheroes," Alderman, a first-year in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, said. Even though Alderman be-

lieves it is normally clear who the end match will be, she still feels a sense of anticipation while watching the story unfold. In "The Summer I Turned Pretty," she thinks one love interest never had a shot against the other.

"Even from season one, everyone can tell that Conrad is going have in those situations are not more logical choice in a particu- to be endgame because of the really reflective of things that I

said

Alderman also enjoys the sense of community that the love triangle in this show has fostered.

"There's something about when you connect with characters, you in some ways relate to them, you empathize with them, you put yourself in their position."

Corey Barker

In her first year at Penn State, she found the topic was an easy icebreaker in her dorm building.

"The other day, the new 'The Summer I Turned Pretty' episode came out," Alderman said. "Everyone in my hall went down to our TV room and watched the episode."

That kind of interaction is another reason Barker believes love triangles become so popular, especially in today's world. The cultural FOMO of want-

ing to be part of the conversation," Barker said. "When you're seeing that stuff kind of thrown at you all the time on your phone, your curiosity is piqued."

Audrey Herlands gave into the constant talk about the love triangle in "The Summer I Turned Pretty," and decided to give the show a shot. Unlike many of her peers, Herlands is "not that big of a fan.'

"The priorities that characters

year studying computer science,

Herlands enjoys when love triangles are more of a subplot in the story, like in "The Hunger Games" series. She believes that when the love triangle itself becomes the focus, it gets flat.

"It loses a lot of the real connections that people seek," Herlands said. "Love triangles that are meaningful to the audience have conflicts and interests and foundations that go beyond the love triangle itself.'

Although she has some critiques about how a love triangle

lar triangle, or at least it's set chemistry that (Belly and Con-think real people care about and may be portrayed, she understands why they are so popular among a wider audience.

"They're easy to digest," Herland said. "They are not very emotionally complex, which some people like.'

Society's obsession with love triangles is not new, but with the help of trending shows like "The Summer I Turned Pretty," the trope is surging in popularity.

"Every generation has its two or three love triangles that really capture their attention," Barker

> To email reporter: kah6798@psu.edu. Follow her on X @ktherron137.



3:46 Sunrise basement to bar gigs

By Joceyln Bilker THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Shared musical passions, spontaneous campus encounters and a growing desire to create something unique brought together

the student band 3:46 Sunrise.

Composed of four undergraduate students — Matthew Colannino, Sonny Vitureira, Andrew Gille and Trevor Brown — the band has been performing at fraternity parties and local bars this semester.

Colannino, a third-year studying accounting, leads the band on vocals and guitar. He said the idea to form the band began his first year at Penn State.

"I was in a band at home, played a bunch of Jersey Shore bars and I was like we need a college band up here," Colann ino said. "I put it on the back burner for a little bit my freshman year, and just thought about it."

The idea started becoming reality when Colannino learned that Vitureira, a third-year studying English, played bass.

"Sonny finally decides to say he plays the bass," Colannino said. 'And I was thinking in my head, no one just plays the bass — he's got to be good.'

For Vitureira, joining the band was a way to connect with a long-standing family tradition.

"My dad was in a band, so seeing what he got to experience firsthand is something I really enjoy," Vitureira said. "He always said that the best part of being in a band is everything that happens after, which I could say is

3:46 Sunrise added its third

member when Colannino met Gille, a fourth-year studying cybersecurity, at the Jam Club's table during an organization fair to the brim with people," Colanon HUB lawn. After connecting through a GroupMe chat, Gille being in the band is probably reached out and joined the band as its drummer.

"My favorite part is I don't really get to play drums ever," Gille said. "The only time I actually am able to play the drums is when I'm with these guys. It's the highlight of my week.

After securing a drummer, Colannino reached out to Brown, a third-year studying cybersecurity and a longtime friend of Colannino's, to complete the lineup. Brown plays rhythm guitar and sings.

"My favorite part is just being able to play with a group of talented people," Brown said. "Growing up, I played a lot of music and I used to perform by myself, so just being with a group of people, it's a completely different tmosphere.

The group started practicing at the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity house and eventually came up with the band's name 3:46 Sunrise — during a late-night

"We were like, come on, when are we gonna practice — at this rate, we're gonna practice till the sunrise," Colannino said. "346 came from the house address, and we (said) let's add the colon and make it a time."

group's first major performance was at a TKE event,

an experience Colannino said was as a turning point.

"That was kind of eye-opening because there was a line at the gate and it was just packed nino said. "My favorite part of just being able to play out and having a crowd sing the songs back to you ... that's a really reassuring feeling."

For Vitureira, a standout moment was playing Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird," even though the conditions weren't ideal.

"It was about 30 BPM faster than it needed to be, and we were all struggling to keep up,' Vitureira said. "My hands were so cold and I was freezing up, but I was just playing through it and everybody was losing their minds ... it was the most surreal experience I've ever had.

All four members said they hope to start writing original music, and take the band to the next level.

"I think that's what really takes a band from just playing around to a band that can actually grow an audience," Brown said.

Vitureira said he hopes the group can turn their passion into something sustainable.

"(We want to) make enough money to where we could make music and release it actual band like my dad was at one point," Vitureria said.

To email reporter: jpb6798@psu.edu. Follow her on X @joceyln_bilker.

Gary Abdullah Named **Grand Marshal**

By Jocelyn Bilker THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

dean of diversity and inclu-Grand Marshal for the 2025 Medal earlier this year Homecoming celebration.

Abdullah threw the first pitch Homecoming game on August 26 to kick off the festivities for this year's celebration.

A Penn State graduate, Abdullah earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in 2003 and 2007, respectively, and has dedicated more than 20 years to the university in roles ranging

from admissions to leadership and multicultural support.

Known for his dedication to cre-Gary Abdullah, assistant ating an inclusive and welcoming community, Abdullah's efforts sion for Penn State's Bellisario have earned him various hon-College of Communications, ors, including the McKay Donkin has been named Honorary Award in 2023 and the Lion's Paw

Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization dediat the State College Spikes x cated to celebrating tradition and instilling pride among students, alumni, faculty and staff through a wide range of events throughout the year.

The 2025 Homecoming Parade is scheduled for October 10.

> To email reporter: jpb6798@psu.edu. Follow her on X @joceyln_bilker.

THIS WEEK IN HAPPY VALLEY

MONDAY, SEPT. 15

- Yoga & Meditation: Noon-1 p.m. at HUB 232 & 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center 122
- SMART Recovery: 3:30–5 p.m. at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center 104

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

- National Voter Registration Day: 9 a.m.—3 p.m. at HUB 112
- Hispanic Heritage Kickoff: 2-10 p.m. at Heritage Hall
- Welcome Orientation: 4–9 p.m. at HUB 008 (For all students)
- Shinrin-Yoku, Forest Bathing: 4-5:30 p.m. at Hartley Wood, Arboretum (Must register online)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17

- Women's volleyball vs. Pitt: 7 p.m. at Rec Hall
- Constitution Day with Penn State Votes 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at HUB 101
- Well-Being Wednesday: 3–5 p.m. IM Building Entrance

THURSDAY, SEPT. 18

- Women's soccer vs. Nebraska: 6 p.m. at Jeffrey Field
- Retro Video Game Night: 6–8 p.m. Schlow Library
- Breathe into Balance: Noon-1 p.m. at HUB 232

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19

- Men's soccer vs. Nebraska: 7 p.m. at Jeffrey Field
- Women's volleyball vs. Princeton: 7 p.m. at Rec Hall
- Downtown Farmer's Market: 11:30 a.m. on Locust Lane

Matt Colannino, lead guitar and vocalist for the band 3:46 Sunrise, stands atop the barricade during the group's, performance at Doggie's Pub on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 in State College, Pa.

'We keep building community'

NEWS

Latino Caucus outlines fall goals, emphasizes advocacy

Jocelyn Bilker THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In a time when cultural organizations are increasingly aware of national tensions and campus policy shifts, the Latino Caucus is continuing its mission to build community, embrace advocacy and ensure that Latino students feel safe, seen and supported on campus.

The organization is entering the semester with a more intentional advocacy-based focus instead of a social one, according to Marcus Roman, the caucus' co-executive internal president.

Roman, a third-year studying finance, said while in the past social gatherings and cultural celebrations were emphasized, this year's board is steering toward civic engagement, political awareness and coalition building.

"Whether it's through protests, attending leadership conventions or participating in Homecoming in a meaningful way, we're being more vocal," he said.

Roman said national policy changes, including restrictions on what student organizations can say or do, have made it more important for the caucus to

remain informed and outspoken.

Judith Rojas, president of the caucus, said the mission to build community is personal and has a broader responsibility in today's political climate.

"My main goal is to build students, but for everyone who's navigating identity at Penn State," Rojas, a third-year studying international politics and public policy, said. "With everything happening locally and nationally, it's important that we're paying attention."

as Noche Events such Latina and Café Con Leche remain central to that vision, according to Rojas. These events offer students a space to celebrate culture, discuss real-world topics and connect with new and familiar faces.

'Our job as leaders is to make sure students feel safe, have access to resources and have a community to turn to during these turbulent times," Rojas said.

Maria Fernanda Lopez Vera

Livia said she's focused on ensuring Latinos are represented in all university decisions.

From securing funding to working closely with other student organizations and Penn

State administration, Lopez, the co-executive external vice president and a third-year studying political science and economics, is determined to ensure Latino students are not overlooked.

have heen "There community, not just for Latino regulations about what student orgs can say and do," Lopez said. "We've had to stay informed, work with the Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC) and make sure our events aren't shut down or restricted. That's how we keep building community — by staying active.

Lopez said she's excited for the annual Thanksgiving-style event hosted by the PRCC and cultural caucuses where students of color can gather to reflect on what community means.

Megan Soto-Benitez, caucus's vice president public relations, working towards increasing visibility of Latino students.

"My role is all about providing resources through social media, sharing events and amplifying the work of others," Soto-Benitez, a third-year studying international politics and public relations, said.

Soto-Benitez



A stuffed animal lion sits on the Latino Caucus' table at Back to State Fun Friday in Alumni Hall on Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 in HUB-Robeson.

communication is key to helping organizations, the Latino Caucus students feel supported.

"We try to make sure that if a student needs help, they know where to go, and that starts with accessible messaging," Soto-Benitez said.

over Despite concerns censorship, administrative changes and national policy shifts affecting cultural student

remains grounded in its mission. according to Roman.

"Regardless of what happens nationally, we're doing everything we can to protect and uplift our students," Roman said.

> To email reporter: jpb6798@psu.edu. Follow her on X @jocelyn_bilker.

Ducks Unlimited keeps its ducks in a row

Ava Krysko THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Ducks Unlimited gives any nature lover the ultimate resources and hands-on experience in the world of wetland and waterfowl habitat conservation.

Brooke Phillips, the president of Penn State Ducks Unlimited, said she's incredibly passionate about conservation and encourages others involved.

though Ducks Unlimited is the name, it is about a lot more than just ducks," Phillips, a fourth-year studying wildlife and fisheries science, said.

She said the club helps to preserve ecosystems as well as the habitats that are essen-

tial to thousands of different wetland species. The work that the club does helps to benefit people through clean water, carbon storage and flood control.

'I just truly love the mission," Phillips said. "There's nothing maintaining and keeping an eye like it in the world." When they're not out in the

field helping to conserve natural resources and wildlife, the club hosts numerous events for members to participate in.

Dancing for the Ducks is a recurring event, where members gather to dance to country music and learn lines dances, according

volunteer work the club does with Shaver's Creek Environmental Center.

and we have adopted a nest box trail both at Shaver's Creek (down by the lake) and at Mustard Gap," Phillips said.

The club is in charge of on the nest boxes as well as making sure that native species are able to move into the boxes to make their home and breed, all in order to add to the population.

The club's biggest event is their banquet, and last April it raised over \$8,000 for conservation.

"Every single cent goes right towards the ducks in the wetlands," Phillips said. "I was so Phillips also mentioned the proud of all the work everyone put in. It really inspired me."

As for the club's average events at a meeting, each one

classic rock playing. After mingling for a bit, the members listen to a Powerpoint presentation cleaning areas and just getting created by Phillips. Most times, the club meets in the Forest Resources Building on campus.

"This club is really great for making contacts and just having fun making a difference," Phillips said. "By being out there and getting your boots in the mud, you are the reason we are conserving these wetlands and waterfowl, and I think that is such a beautiful thing."

Phillips praises the group for its ability to make a tangible change when it comes to conservation. "With Ducks Unlimited, we are

hands on," Phillips said. "We get the job done. I think that's such an inspiring community to be a part of." Phillips also helped clear

up a common misconception associated with Ducks Unlimited. "A lot of people think that in or-

der to join you have to be a hunter or have a family history of hunting," Phillips said. "You absolutely do not have to be in order to be a part of Ducks Unlimited or care about the future of waterfowl wetlands. We welcome everyone, regardless of age, gender, status (or) anything.

Sean Farrell, the former vice president, spoke about the mission of the club and why it's

The club's all about getting people who want to be involved waterfowl conservation, Farrell, a Penn State alum who

"We work with Jon Kauffman, starts with either country or studied wildlife and fisheries science, said. "We do that by building mallard nesting habitats, people who have similar interests and goals together."

Farrell commented on how much the club means to him, as he was one of the founding members. "When I was a freshman and

sophomore, I would have loved to join the club, and I didn't have that opportunity until Brooke and I started it," Farrell said. "Allowing younger classmen to come in and have something they would enjoy doing, that's probably the best part, as well as getting to hang out with people with similar interests."

Kate Frain, the former social media chair, is proud of all of the money the club has been able to raise for wildlife conservation, and how hard the members of the club work.

"Everyone's really focused on preserving these species." Frain. a Penn State alum who studied wildlife and fisheries science.

Phillips noted the importance of rallying people of similar passions together in order to inspire change.

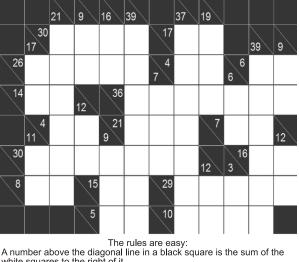
"There's so many people that have the same mindset as us," Phillips said. "We can all work together to make the world a better place."

> To email reporter: apk6215@psu.edu. Follow her on X @avakrysko.

Courtesy of Brooke Phillips

Penn State organization Ducks Unlimited members pose during a recruitment event on the HUB Lawn.

Kakuro

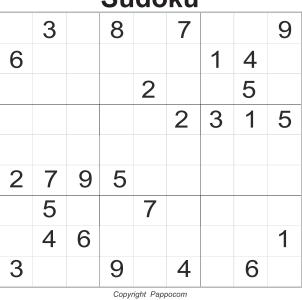


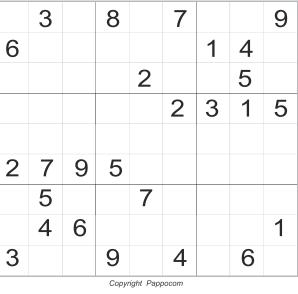
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You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit can only be used once in any sequence. Copyright ©2025 PuzzleJunction.com

the sequence below it.

Sudoku





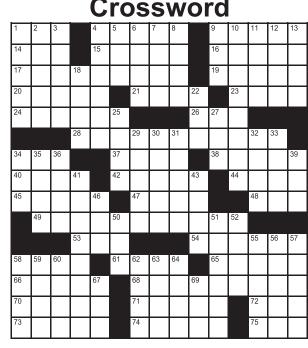
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Etched



Across 1 Goat god 58 Banned apple spray 61 Farm mothers 65 Court wear 66 Western wolves

1 Goat god
4 Rank
9 Humiliate
14 Will Smith title role
15 Mature
16 Brackish
17 Mottled source of

protein 19 Snooped 20 Winter pear

21 Apothecary's weight 23 Curse 24 Type of engine 26 Apple picker 28 Lewis Carroll's

38 Water chestnut,

e.g. 40 Concrete section

42 Ascends 44 Mark's successor

47 Military award 48 Windsor, for one

49 Summer coolers 53 Med. care provider 54 "The English

Patient" setting

45 Kind of cap

smiling character 34 Bird-to-be 37 Try for a part

Down 1 Half of a 60's quartet
2 Skirt style
3 Martial arts expert

73 Swarms

4 Crank 5 Needle 6 Parodied

7 Letter opener? 8 Sicilian resort

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9 Viper 10 Cook out

68 Coconut and
almond cookies
70 Ice house
71 "The Republic"
writer
72 Newline shape
73 Swarms

75 Guinness suffix

51 Thin 52 "Begone!" 55 Beyond's partner

56 Russo and
Magritte, e.g.
57 Strong point
58 Hopped off
59 Balcony section
60 Qualified

22 French sea 25 German mister

27 Dog doc 29 Earthquake

30 Waste maker 31 Perfect

33 Actress Polo 34 Medium claim 35 Radiate

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I'm not who I was in high

Phininn

school

Content warning: This column briefly mentions discussion of body image. If you or a friend are in need of assistance, there are resources available.

I'm not the person I was in high school. That's a wonder-



fourth year at Penn State. People tell you that time goes fast, but

Frederick I didn't believe

them until now. My freshman, sophomore and junior years were a blur.

That being said, my time at Pope John Paul II High School feels like an eternity ago.

This summer, I was back home in my childhood bedroom and found myself staring at the collage of high school pictures I'd made.

I took in the people I was with, some of whom I still talk to and some of whom I've drifted apart from. I reminisced on the things I was thinking about, remembering what was so

important to me at the time. I looked at the framed face of me, a fresh high school grad, and realized that we aren't the same person anymore.

Beyond the fact that I can't fit into the jeans I wore four years ago (which, by the way, is normal and absolutely OK), I don't think the same exact way and now I want different things.

I'm still me, of course, but I've changed. I've grown.

One thing that used to drive me crazy was coming home from school and people, particularly family, commenting on how much different you are since starting college. Usually, there's an almost judgmental undertone, because you aren't

the same wide-eyed kid you were when you left. It's like letting the world influence you is a bad

In a way, I understand, humans are a nostalgic bunch (myself included) and we typically like things to stay exactly the way they've always been.

However, that simply isn't realistic.

It's no surprise that you're different since starting college. You're finally figuring out who you are.

While you should always stay true to yourself, I'm here to tell you that you will, and should, grow, change and develop over the course of your time at Penn State.

You're learning and experiencing new things constantly. This doesn't mean that you're morphing into a completely reinvented person; you're

"People tell you that time goes fast, but I didn't believe them until now."

Julia Frederick

just evolving into a new you. Let yourself be open to the many ways college will shape and mold your development.

Freshman year, I dyed my hair bright crimson just because I could. Sophomore year, I tried my hand at student journalism to see what it was like. Junior year, I applied for a master's program and spent the next few months holding my breath until I got my decision. This year, I started

taking graduate-level classes in a field that I absolutely love.

None of that would have happened if I hadn't embraced what college had in store for me, even if that meant that I was leaving my high school self behind. Each decision, no matter how big or small, played a role in my transition to adulthood.

I'm grateful for high school me. She took the first big, scary step toward becoming the person I am today. Though now she lives in the past, I know she's proud of the individual I've become.

Julia Frederick is a columnist for the Daily Collegian. She is a fourth-year student studying English with a minor in technical writing, concentration in creative writing, and a certificate in business. She is also enrolled in the Penn State Department of English BA/ MA Graduate Program in Creative Writing. Email her at jmf7052@psu.edu or follow her on X @julia75826.



Cartoon by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | Avery Hill

Let's Be Frank | Penn State isn't living up to hype

media to go all the

way in the College

Football Playoff."

Let's be Frank, Penn State isn't living up to its national



championship hype so far. Through

two games, the Nittany Lions are unbeaten.

The wins have come in blow

outs versus inferior opponents, but anyone who watched the games will know the squad hasn't played up to

par, especially considering said games were at Beaver Stadium.

It starts offensively, as Penn State boasts a 9-of-25 thirddown efficiency on the season and scored 10 points in the first half against FIU.

James Franklin hasn't shied away from the unit's downfalls, mentioning the need to finish drives and create more explosive plays in both of his post-game pressers so far.

"We gotta get better. We gotta get better this week," Franklin said Saturday. "We have not met our explosive play mark the last two weeks and we weren't good enough on third down today, and those things are going to stall out drives. I have the same concerns that you do."

Part of the struggles fell on Drew Allar, who was a projected Heisman candidate

yet had notable off-target throws in the first two games.

Allar about to throw But even defensively, it pitched a shutout against FIU

and allowed 11 points against Nevada but has been gashed for far too many big plays, like when running back Kejon Owens took a carry for 21 yards after linebacker Amare Campbell missed him right in the hole Saturday.

The unit has also played a

"bend but don't break" style of ball in both games, saving long drives at the last minute with big plays like defensive tackle Alonzo Ford Jr.'s pick Saturday and allowing multiple players to get loose for big gains against Nevada.

Struggles in a cupcake schedule isn't new to Happy Valley, though. Last year's Bowling Green scare and the weeks where Penn

State's defense looked to get back to "the standard" are the most recent examples.

This year is different, though. The Nittany Lions have been projected by a bulk of national media to go all the way in the

College Football Playoff. Surprisingly, the media has kept them at No. 2 in the AP Poll in each draw and yet they are struggling with Group of Six competition — it's simply unacceptable.

If you look across the country in Week 2, No. 24 Auburn demolished Ball State, 42-3, No. 19 Alabama beat the University of Louisiana at Monroe, 73-0 and No. 4 Oregon beat

Oklahoma State, 69-3 - all

either comparable or better opponents than "The Nittany Lions Nevada and FIU. have been projected by a bulk of national

All in all, 10 top-25 teams beat their opponent by 40 or more points in Week 2. Penn State hasn't beaten an opponent by 40 yet.

To some, that's a trivial concern. but to win the national title, expectations are

at a different level. In the last five years, each national champion had at least

Avery Hill

taken advantage.

three wins over 40 points. In an era where cupcake games are important to put teams in the position to win it all, Penn State hasn't

Sure it has made strides from Week 1 to Week 2, featuring a far better run game and leaving

FIU quarterback Keyone Jenkins no space to breathe, but it has yet to have a dominant showing with a mound of depth and returning

A positive for Penn State is it's still early in the campaign. The media's continued love for the Nittany Lions is a positive sign moving forward, but I doubt said love will continue if it plays around with FCS squad Villanova — the program that hasn't beaten an FBS opponent since Temple in

Franklin's taking it one game at a time and has made it clear the team doesn't care about the perception of the national media, but it should still look to leave no doubt every Saturday.

Either way, media hype or not, Penn State invested in the transfer portal and its returning stars for a reason: the season is "natty or bust."

Yet so far, it has been a bust. Penn State must step it up.

Avery Hill is the football editor for The Daily Collegian. He's a fourth-year studying broadcast journalism with a minor in sport studies from Prince George's County, Maryland. Email him at amh8304@psu.edu or follow him @official_aveee.

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Sports

Big Ten tiers

Penn State men's hockey's 2025 preseason conference breakdown

By Maggie Hardy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

College hockey has long since been dominated by the blueblooded teams of the National Collegiate Hockey Conference and the powerhouse programs of the Hockey East. Despite its recent lack of postseason success, the Big Ten is never too far behind in talent and the conference might have its best shot to compete for a national title in decades.

To say the Big Ten is loaded with talent this season would be an understatement. Boasting multiple championship $front runners \, and \, some \, of \, the \, most$ premier talent in history after the newly granted collegiate eligibility to CHL players, any team's conference schedule is going to be a battle.

With puck drop on the 2025-26 season just under a month away, take a look at how the Big Ten teams are stacking up this preseason.

Tier 1: Penn State / Michigan State

the most dominant teams on title, alongside Hockey East foe another monumental season. Boston University.



Penn State forward Nicholas Devgraves (17) motions to the crowd during the NCAA Regional Finals against UConn on March 30, 2025.

gram's first-ever Frozen Four appearance back in April. While returning most of its roster and recruiting one of the most impressive classes in Penn State Athletics history, the program's expectations have only elevated.

With the addition of genera-Penn State and Michigan State tional talent Gavin McKenna, have the potential to be two of first-round draft pick Jackson Smith, Hobey Baker Top-10 Finalthe college hockey scene as the ist Mac Gadowsky and more, the frontrunners for the national Nittany Lions are poised for

The blue and white are college hockey rankings for a coming off a monster sea- majority of last season, and son, which included the pro- despite 2025 Hobey Baker Award

winner Isaac Howard departing Tier 2: Michigan / for the NHL, the team still retained many of its best players, including elite goaltender Trey Augustine and 2023 first-round pick Charlie Stramel.

The Spartans were another team to land a highly sought-after top NHL prospect, No. 6 overall pick, Porter Martone. 2024 No. 4 overall pick Cayden Lindstrom and 2025 No. 26 overall pick Ryker Lee are just two more elite Michigan State sat atop the skaters heading to East Lansing this winter.

Minnesota

While Penn State and Michigan State are leading the pack in the hunt for the national title, both Michigan and Minnesota have put together teams very capable of making a deep run.

The Wolverines have one of the top hockey programs in the country, churning out NHL talent on a yearly basis, but they had a bit of a down year last season after falling to the Nittany Lions in the first round of the Big Ten tournament and failing to obtain a postseason bid.

Michigan is looking to turn the tide, however, bringing 14 new faces to Ann Arbor this season. Made up of 11 freshmen and three transfers, all but five of whom are NHL bound, the Wolverines have a promising future ahead with a talented new class.

Minnesota, on the other hand, performed well last season, tying at the top of the conference with the Spartans with 50 points and earning a postseason bid.

The Golden Gophers lost a lot of their top scorers from last year, but they are another team bringing in a talented new class. Among the new faces are two top 2025 picks in 6-foot-6 defenseman Jacob Rombach and fourth-round forward L.J. Mooney.

Tier 3: Wisconsin / Notre Dame / Ohio State

While Wisconsin, Notre Dame and Ohio State have all put together solid rosters for the upcoming season, they sit a little farther back from a potential championship than some of the other Big Ten programs this

The Buckeyes put together a solid season last year, but Wisconsin and Notre Dame found themselves at the bottom of the conference, and with more talent joining the Big Ten, it looks like that fate might be repeated.

To email reporter: mah7305@psu.edu. Follow her on X @MaggieHardy22.

All-Around effort

Penn State uses all 16 healthy players vs. New Hampshire



The Nittany Lions huddle up as a team after a missed point during the Penn State women's volleyball game against Bucknell in Rec Hall on Sept. 9, 2025.

By Andrew Deal THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After dropping three straight matches, all to ranked opponents, No. 5 Penn State got back on track with a sweep of New Hampshire to close out the Penn State regular players participating.

Invitational. on deck in the victory, playing all 16 healthy players throughout the match to get everyone playing time.

"It's something we talk about in practice all the time, that everyone's going to have to contribute to the success of this team, whether it's a couple points here



Middle blocker Gabrielle Nichols (8) celebrates during the Penn State women's volleyball game against Bucknell on Sept. 9, 2025.

and there, everyone needs to do off the court." their job." coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley said.

The blue and white continued to try to get everything going and seemingly did so, hitting .483 in the opening set with all of the

Following a 25-11 set one victo-The Nittany Lions had all hands ry, the bench started to get more action. Middle blocker Gabrielle Nichols and outside hitter Alexis Ewing were the first to see playing time among the players who don't play all the time.

Nichols and Ewing both made the most of their opportunity, combining for eight kills across the next two sets.

However, both players are expected to see some action throughout the rest of the season as breakout freshman options. That change saw the exit of

right-side hitter Kennedy Martin for the first time this season, resting her for the remainder of the match. "I think we were just trying to

get everyone in and get everyone comfortable playing on our floor," Schumacher-Cawley said. "Every set might be a different lineup for us, but we'll be ready to go.'

Ewing showcased her highflying ability during the two sets she was on the court, proving she could carve out a key role not only in the future but in the present, as well.

"I definitely felt a lot more comfortable than I did in the first game," Ewing said. "I have to say that's thanks to all of my teammates. They make me feel really comfortable and really welcome, even if I'm on the court or

Penn State utilized the opportunity against New Hampshire to get everyone playing time, allowing freshmen like Ewing to get more comfortable playing on a team that has high expectations.

The Nittany Lions had five players with six or more kills, with outside hitter Emmi Sellman leading the way with 11

Despite Sellman, middle blocker Maggie Mendelson and Martin all only playing in two sets, the hitting never slowed down. The team ended Set 2 with a .643 hitting percentage and ended the match with a .430 hitting percentage across all three sets.

But the main storyline the coaching staff will follow is that all 16 players played, giving each player the chance to get nerves out of the way before an opportunity were to arise in Big Ten play. Penn State got back on

track after dropping three in a row with a dominant 3-0 victory, showcasing the growth in chemistry across the team.

"I think every day is the same exact thing, and I think consistency is what we strive for as a team... so same thing every single day," Sellman said.

To email reporter: asd5765@psu.edu. Follow him on X @AndrewDeal22.



Penn State men's soccer sings the alma mater after the game against Mercyhurst at Jeffrey Field on Sept. 5, 2025.

Looking ahead

Looking forward as Penn State begins Big Ten play

By Ryne Tyson THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following a 2-2-1 start to the season, the Nittany Lions begin Big Ten play on Friday night when they travel to Rutgers to face the Scarlet Knights. Here's a look at how Penn State's start to the year compares to the rest of the conference.

Record

Three teams are undefeated to begin the season. Reigning regular season champion Indiana has the best record so far at 5-0-1, sitting atop the NCAA

United Coaches Poll. Behind it is Maryland at 3-0-1 and Michigan 3-0-2. Both received votes but neither made it onto the most recent ranking.

Northwestern, Michigan State and Rutgers also have three wins to their names. Ohio State, the reigning tournament champions, Penn State, Wisconsin and Washington each have two. UCLA has yet to earn a victory through five games.

Stats

Following their five-goal victory last Friday, the Nittany Lions had a total of ten goals on the season, the fifth most in the conference, just one behind the Hoosiers. Following a sevengoal performance on Monday, Washington now leads with a total of 15 goals.

Maryland has the best goal differential thus far, allowing only two goals to its 13 scored. The Nittany Lions sit middle of the pack with a differential of four, allowing six goals compared to its 10 scored.

Penn State also sits fourth in assists with 11 and sixth in shot attempts with 78. The Terrapins,

once again, hold the top spot in

both stats with 20 assists and 87

Penn State's shots have been on target, placing them fifth in the conference with a 0.41 shotson-target percentage, just above Northwestern. The Scarlet Knights' 54% of shots on target

Players

leads the way.

Prior to Friday's contest, not many Nittany Lions had goals to their names, so they've got some catching up to do on the leaderboards. Rutgers junior Joschi Schelb leads the Big Ten with five goals through five games. The Freiburg, Germany, native also has a conference-leading eleven points on the season.

Alejandro Martinez Santamaria of Northwestern is the conference leader in assists with five. Penn State's Ben Liscum is just two behind him with three.

Rutgers also boasts the top goalie in the conference. Ciaran Dalton has saved 16 shots already this season, an average of 3.2 per game. The Terrapins' goalie Laurin Mack has been more efficient, however, saving 15 shots and allowing only two goals, good for an .882 save percentage. Mack, as well as Indiana's Holden Brown, lead the conference with three shutouts each.

Penn State finished at the bottom of the Big Ten last season, going just 2-6-2. One of those wins was against Rutgers. It was their first season with a losing record against the Big Ten since 2017.

> To email reporter: rjt5764@psu.edu. Follow him on X @Ryne_Tyson06.

STUDENTS DEFEND WOMEN'S RIGHTS



Students gather in front of the HUB-Robeson Center.

In a response to anti-abortion demonstration



Members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP) gathered outside Osmond Labora tory for an anti-abortion demonstration Monday, Sept. 8, 2025 in University Park, Pa. Aly Bickle, a third-year studying biochemistry and molecular biology and forensic science, wrote "Women Matter" in her notebook and stood in front of TFP's demonstration for several hours, shouting for women's rights.



Bickle argues with a member of TFP. "I was just out advocating for women," Bickle





John Ritchie, a TFP member, led the demonstration and said he wants to stand up for innocent lives. Bickle and another student argue with him "It's not a choice, it's a taking



After departing their spot outside Osmond Laboratory, the members of TFP walk down Pollock Road playing bagpipes, while Bickle Members of TFP walk down Shortlidge Road past the HUB Deck while a crowd of leads them shouting for women's rights. "I believe that I stood up for everyone who backs my beliefs at Penn State, and I want to students watch and follow. thank everyone who stood with me. It wasn't just one person." Bickle said.

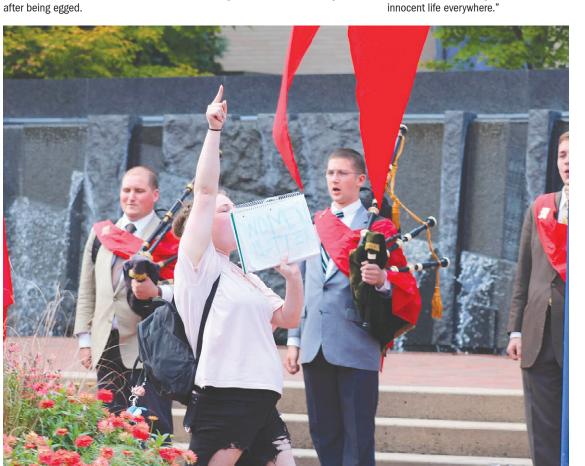




A member of TFP stands at the corner of Shortlidge Road and East College Avenue after being egged.



Ritchie holds up a megaphone. "The truth is that life starts in the womb of the mother," Ritchie said. "We're standing here to protect



"I'm not against advocating their beliefs, but I will advocate my own.

Bickle marches in front of TFP's demonstration.



IERSUS

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@DailyCollegian

VILLANOVA (1-0) **WILDCATS**

(2-0) PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS





@Collegian



NITTANY LIONS IN THE NFL

Micah Parsons debuts in Green Bay, rookies get strong starts

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The NFL's regular season is off and running with 45 former Penn State players on rosters.

Two of the program's veterans in the league made impact plays while its two first-round rookies made their first appearances with their new teams.

Here's more on what those ex-Nittany Lions did in Week 1.

Micah Parsons, defensive end, Green Bay Packers

Right before the 2025 season started, the Dallas Cowboys sent pass rusher and three-time All-Pro Micah Parsons to the Green Bay Packers in a blockbuster deal.

Parsons made his debut in Green Bay during the 27-13 win over the Detroit Lions on Sunday. He ran down quarterback Jared Goff to collect his first sack with his new squad late in the fourth quarter.

The ST1X C1TY legend played 29 snaps but had three quarterback pressures and a tackle for loss on top of his sack. On most reps, he was going up against All-Pro offensive tackle Penei Sewell.

Parsons also had a bit of a new look with the Packers as he's don-



the second half of an NFL football game on Sept. 7, 2025 in Green Bay, Wis.

at Penn State and with the Cowboys, this is his first time since high school he doesn't have both sticks on his jersey.

Saquon Barkley, running back, Philadelphia Eagles

Saquon Barkley helped the Philadelphia Eagles to a Super Bowl win last season as he rushed for over 2,000 yards and became the Offensive Player of the Year.

Now entering Year 2 with the Eagles, Barkley recorded his first touchdown of the 2025 season during a 24-20 victory over

10-yard score was set up by a 51yard reception by teammate and fellow former Nittany Lion Jahan Dotson. Barkley

finished with 60 rushing yards on 18 carries along with four catches for 24 yards. He's once again getting the majority of work in the backfield as the rest of the Eagles' running back room combined for just six

Tyler Warren, tight end, **Indianapolis Colts**

Tyler Warren flashed the ning No. 1. After wearing No. 11 the Cowboys last Thursday. His potential he could have as a

the Indianapolis Colts' 33-8 win over the Miami Dolphins last Sunday. On the first play from

reliable pass catcher throughout

scrimmage, Warren hauled in a pass from quarterback Daniel Jones, picking up 14 yards and a first down. He continued to find himself open on short and intermediate routes, making another two catches on the same drive.

The Colts didn't have much production from their tight ends a year ago as Kylen Granson led the group with 182 yards. Through one game, Warren has accumulated 41.8% of that total with 76

yards against the Dolphins. While his yardage was second

most on Indianapolis, Warren's seven receptions and nine targets were both the highest on the team. He also showcased the same versatility he had in Happy Valley, lining up at fullback for a

Abdul Carter, linebacker, **New York Giants**

Abdul Carter also made a splash in his rookie debut after making noise in the preseason and training camp.

Early in the third quarter during the 21-6 loss to the Washington Commanders, Carter got around his blocker and deflected a punt from Tress Way, causing an only 31-yard punt.

Carter contributed defensively as well, tallying three tackles. On top of that, he teamed up with fellow pass rusher Kayvon Thibodeaux for a sack on quarterback Jayden Daniels just before halftime.

To email reporter: wmh5351@psu.edu. Follow him on X @WillHorstman .

Notebook | Franklin talks defensive communication, depth at WR, RB Franklin said it's a "little bit of nonconference slate, younger some point this year" Penn State A possibility in the depth chart

By Will Horstman THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State opened the doors to its weekly practice availability Wednesday, and Franklin gave some updates on his team following the session. Franklin touched on the

communication on defense while later mentioning a few depth pieces on offense at wide receiver and running back.

Here's more on what Franklin had to say.

Defensive communication

Franklin had some feedback on the communication with the green dot, which is the in-helmet communication system coaches use to relay play calls to a player on the field. Linebackers Amare Campbell and Dom DeLuca have both worn the green dot so far this season.

16

18

15

16

16

16

Joshua Johnson

Khalil Dinkins

Bekkem Kritza

King Mack

Jack Ryder

Julian Glantz

a challenge," attributing that to a variety of reasons. "We got to make sure we're

working on defense because at home, that's where we're really going to deal with it," Franklin said. "There's been times where it's been challenging. Sometimes we've had some technology issues, and sometimes the tempo of the offense can make some things challenging, too."

This aspect was something Franklin said he wrote in his notes following the team's win over FIU to work on it during practice. The Nittany Lions have a home game Saturday versus Villanova, giving the defense another opportunity to see the field when there's ample crowd

Young wide receivers

players have seen chances for playing time, and Franklin talked about two of his depth pieces at wide receiver Wednesday's practice — Tyseer Denmark and Koby Howard. Denmark has drawn buzz at

times throughout the offseason. He's played on 18 snaps through two games this season, hauling in two passes for 17 yards. "He's got a toughness to him

that I think is really important at the wide receiver position, Franklin said. "He's got really confident, strong hands, and he's preparing and going about it the right way with the right energy. I think we have a lot of confidence when we need to put him in the game, and when he gets his opportunity, I think he's going to be ready."

Franklin mentioned Denmark has handled himself well so far Throughout Penn State's in his career, adding that "at Martin Jr.

will "need him." Howard's in a different

situation compared to Denmark as this is his true freshman year. It still remains to be seen if

Howard will burn his redshirt.

While Franklin said how Howard has flashed on offense, he's "not factoring in" much on special teams which could cause him to keep his redshirt.

'Kobe's a little frustrated by it as a younger player, which is understandable," Franklin said. "But there's some other areas where he can help himself."

No. 3 running back spot

Heading into the Villanova game, Penn State has yet to officially name a No. 3 running back. There's three players in a battle for that spot in Corey Smith, Cam Wallace and Quinton

WR/Jr.

TE/Fr

OL/Sr.

OL/So.

OL/So.

OL/Fr.

could've been a committee for the position, but Franklin said he'd "like for somebody to take the job." Wallace, who was the No. 3

back last season before going down with injury, has made plays that flashed the talent of his former self, like his hurdle in the Nevada game. Smith has seen some game action as well, taking five carries for 13 yards against the Wolf Pack.

Martin hasn't had as much volume as the other two backs due to "bumps and bruises" he's endured, but he's still in the mix. 'Week 1, he was banged up, so

that's why he was not available," Franklin said. "But yeah, we expect and anticipate, he's been a part of that battle."

> To email reporter: wmh5351@psu.edu. Follow him on X @WillHorstman_

VILLANOVA WILDCATS

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Luke Larsen	P/Sr.	19	Chris Dobrydney	WR/Sr.	54	Thomas Colello	LS/So.	91	Ayden Howard	DL/Sr.
0	Capri Martin	DL/Jr.	20	Isaiah Ragland	RB/So.	55	Mike Kennedy	DL/Jr.	92	Nigel McSween	DL/So.
1	Luke Colella	WR/Sr.	21	Jayvont Williams	DB/So.	56	Christian Caballero	LB/So.	93	Nate Sullivan	DL/Fr.
1	Jon Wyatt	DB/Jr.	22	Christian Sapp	DB/Sr.	58	Thomas Brown	OL/Fr.	94	Ivan Murray	DL/So.
2	Zahmir Dawud	DB/So.	23	Jamie Tyson	DB/Fr.	61	Dan McManus	OL/Sr.	95	Tyler Langin	DL/Jr.
2	Eli Smith	RB/Sr.	24	David Avit	RB/So.	62	RJ Reyes	OL/So.	96	Ugo Nwotite	DL/Fr.
3	Tanner Maddocks	QB/Jr.	25	Amari Jackson	DB/Fr.	63	Quin Whalen	OL/Sr.	97	Daniel Mueller	P/Jr.
3	Josh Oluremi	DB/Jr.	26	Isaiah Wright	RB/Sr.	67	Kyle Fay	OL/So.	98	Obinna Nwobodo	DL/Sr.
4	Jordan Adderley	DB/Sr.	27	Anthony Hawkins	DB/So.	69	Jake Picard	OL/Sr.	99	Ratu Delano Navoti	DL/Fr.
4	Ja'briel Mace	RB/So.	28	Brenden Toppin	DB/Fr.	70	Dhamir Wesley	OL/Fr.			
5	Turner Inge	LB/Jr.	29	Samir Wilkins	DB/Fr.	71	Colt Brennan	OL/Fr.			
6	Nate Hill	WR/Jr.	31	Shane Hartzell	LB/Sr.	72	Matthias Ogrinc	OL/Fr.			
7	Pat McQuaide	QB/Sr.	32	Omari Bursey	LB/Fr.	73	Nico Sclafani	OL/Fr.			
7	Julian Talley	DB/Sr.	33	Ian Files	DB/Fr.	74	Temi Ajirotutu	OL/Sr.			
8	Michael Benincasa	QB/Jr.	34	Tyler Womack	RB/Fr.	75	Stephane Voltaire	OL/Sr.			
8	Kaleb Moody	DB/Sr.	35	Langston White	LB/Fr.	76	Chris McCullers	OL/So.			
9	Antonio Johnson	TE/Sr.	36	Damill Bostic Jr.	DB/Fr.	77	Chris Therien	OL/Fr.			
10	JR Strauss	LB/Jr.	38	Newton Essiem	DB/So.	78	Tommy Broderick	OL/So.			
11	Jason Hall	LB/So.	39	Luke Myers	PK/Fr.	79	Ryan Cregan	OL/So.			
12	Hudson Heinemann	QB/Fr.	41	Garrett Rogan	DB/Sr.	80	D'Hani Cobbs	WR/Fr.			
12	Colin Kennedy	LB/Sr.	42	Jack Barnum	PK/Sr.	81	Brandon Binkowski	WR/Fr.			
13	Chris Colby	WR/So.	43	Nino Betances	DB/Sr.	82	Ryan Kennedy	WR/Jr.			
14	Dylan Mills	QB/Fr.	44	Richie Kimmel	LB/Sr.	83	Braden Reed	WR/Fr.			
14	Robert Russo	QB/Jr.	45	Walker Murray	LB/Fr.	84	Ralee Stephens	WR/Fr.			
15	Kenyon Miles	WR/Jr.	48	Griffin Galletta	DL/Fr.	85	Nolan Clayton	TE/So.			
16	Lucas Kopecky	WR/Sr.	50	AJ Koukou	DL/Fr.	86	Sean Brodnik	TE/Fr.			

LB/Sr.

LB/Fr.

87

89

Ryan Sorge

Sean Welde

CB/Fr.

TE/Sr

QB/Fr.

S/Jr.

34

35

35

36

Owen Wafle

Tyler Armstead

Zuriah Fisher

Blaise Sokach-Minnick

QB/Sr.

RB/Sr.

51

Dale Law

Michael Gaul

No.	Name Posi	tion/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Dominic DeLuca	LB/Sr.	17	Ethan Grunkemeyer	QB/Fr.	38	Jackson Pryts	LB/Jr.	71	Vega Ioane	OL/Jr.
1	Kyron Hudson	WR/Sr.	17	Kenny Woseley Jr.	CB/Fr.	38	Winston Yates	LB/So.	72	Nolan Rucci	OL/Sr.
2	Liam Clifford	WR/Sr.	18	Joey Schlaffer	TE/So.	39	Ty Blanding	DT/So.	73	Caleb Brewer	OL/Fr.
2	Audavion Collins	CB/Jr.	18	Max Granville	DE/Fr.	39	Jashaun Green	S/Jr.	74	J'ven Williams	OL/So.
3	Antoine Belgrave-Shorter	S/Fr.	19	Josiah Brown	WR/Fr.	40	Anthony Speca	LB/Fr.	75	Matt Detisch	OL/Jr.
3	Koby Howard	WR/Fr.	19	Chaz Coleman	DE/Fr.	42	Mason Robinson	DE/So.	76	Mason Carlan	OL/Sr.
4	Tyseer Denmark	WR/Fr.	19	Jack Lambert	QB/So.	43	Dayshaun Burnett	DE/Fr.	77	Owen Aliciene	OL/Fr.
4	A.J. Harris	CB/Jr	20	Mylachi Williams	DE/Fr.	44	Jaylen Harvey	DE/Fr.	78	Malachi Goodman	OL/Fr.
5	Daryus Dixson	CB/Fr.	21	Vaboue Toure	S/Fr.	44	Matt Henderson	TE/Fr.	79	Donnie Harbour	OL/Fr.
5	Devonte Ross	WR/Sr.	21	Jabree Coleman	RB/Fr.	45	Enai White	DT/Jr.	80	Jeff Exinor Jr.	WR/Fr.
6	Zakee Wheatley	S/Sr.	23	Tikey Hayes	RB/Fr.	46	Cortez Harris`	DE/Fr.	81	Donte Nastasi	CB/So.
6	Matt Outten	WR/Fr.	23	Jahmir Joseph	CB/Fr.	47	Aidan Probst	DE/Fr.	82	Ethan Black	WR/So.
7	Kaden Saunders	WR/Jr.	24	Corey Smith	RB/Fr.	48	Tyler Duzansky	SN/Sr.	83	Brian Kortovich	TE/Fr.
7	Zion Tracy	CB/Jr.	24	Amare Campbell	LB/Jr.	50	Cooper Cousins	OL/So.	84	Peter Gonzalez	WR/Fr.
8	DaKaari Nelson	LB/So.	25	Quinton Martin Jr.	RB/Fr	50	Alonzo Ford Jr.	DT/Sr.	85	Luke Reynolds	TE/So.
8	Trebor Pena	WR/Sr.	25	Alex Tatsch	LB/Fr.	51	Michael Troutman ll	,	86	Aaron Enterline	WR/Fr.
9	Elliot Washington II	CB/Jr.	26	Cam Smith	LB/Fr.	52	Randy Adirika	DT/Fr.	87	Andrew Rappleyea	WR/So.
10	Nick Singleton	RB/Sr.	26	Cam Wallace	RB/So.	52	Dominic Rulli	OL/Jr.	88	Andrew Olesh	TE/Fr.
10	Dejuan Lane	S/So.	27	Lamont Payne Jr.	CB/So.	5 3	Nick Dawkins	OL/Sr.	88	Sam Siafa	DT/So.
11	LaVar Arrington II	LB/Fr.	28	Zane Durant	DT/Sr.	54	Xavier Gilliam	DT/Fr.	89	Finn Furmanek	TE/So.
11	Lyrick Samuel	WR/Fr:	28	Karson Kiesewetter	S/So.	54	Ian Harvie	OL/Jr.	90	Liam Andrews	DT/Fr.
12	Anthony Ivey	WR/Jr.	29	Daniel Jennings	DE/Fr,	54	TJ Shanahan Jr.	OL/So.	92	Andrew Dufault	SN/Fr.
12	Xxavier Thomas	CB/Fr.	30	Amiel Davis	RB/Sr.	55	Chimdy Onoh	OL/So.	93	Bobby Mears	DE/So.
13	Kaytron Allen	RB/Sr.	30	Kari Jackson	LB/Fr.	58	Kaleb Artis	DT/Jr.	94	Ryan Barker	K/So.
13	Tony Rojas	LB/Jr.	31	Logan Cunningham	WR/Jr.	59	Brady O'Hara	OL/Fr.	94	De'Andre Cook	DT/Fr.
14	Braz Thomas	S/Fr.	31	Kolin Dinkins	CB/Jr.	61	Liam Horan	OL/Fr.	95	Jordan Mayer	DE/So.
14	Riley Thompson	P/Sr.	32	Keon Wylie	LB/Jr.	63	Alex Birchmeier	OL/So.	98	Matthew Parker	K/Fr.
14	Jaxon Smolik	QB/So.	33	Dani Dennis-Sutton	DE/Sr.	64	Eagan Boyer	OL/Fr.	99	Yvan Kemajou	DE/Fr.
15	Drew Allar	QB/Sr.	34	Tyler Holzworth	RB/Sr.	65	Jim Fitzgerald	OL/Jr.	99	Gabriel Nwosu	P/Sr

DT/Fr.

SN/Jr.

CB/Fr.

DE/Sr.

66

67

68

70

Drew Shelton

Henry Boehme

Garrett Sexton

Anthony Donkoh

'THE SKY'S THE LIMIT'

TE Luke Reynolds taking advantage of increased role

By Lexie Linderman THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

There's nothing Luke Reynolds hates more than losing.

As a kid, he and his two brothers were constantly competing. Some of their pickup basketball games in the driveway wouldn't come to a conclusion because they'd start arguing. But it's that aspect of his childhood that made Reynolds the football player he is today.

"I'm a middle child, so I have a younger and older brother, so they definitely shaped me to who I am," Reynolds said. "We were competitive, regardless of if we were playing a sport or video games, just anything around the house. Having three athletic boys always doing something just creates a lot of just unannounced competition. So I guess I've always been competitive since then.

Reynolds' competitive fire has shown throughout his short Penn State career. He was fired up after being the hero against Minnesota last season, and after scoring his first touchdown against Purdue.

It's also something his teammates and the staff took notice of

Transfer wide receiver Devonte Ross said Reynolds is "just the ultimate competitor" after only being around him for the last eight or so months.

"You see him at practice every single day. He takes what he does serious," Ross said. "All of his reps, whether we're doing one on ones, it doesn't matter, like he wants to win every single time. And I love that about Luke, like I really enjoy watching him play football. So I feel like Luke, he can do amazing things. I feel like he can do anything that he wants to. And the sky's the limit for him."

Reynolds didn't have much of a role in the passing game last season, but still earned a green light to burn his redshirt and played in each game. Through it all, his biggest task was growing as a

Tight ends coach Ty Howle is notorious for coaching his group to be all-around players, as seen with Tyler Warren and Brenton Strange having highlight blocks in the NFL during Week 1. For Reynolds, that's been his biggest focus, and he's feeling confident "It's something that I'm still

developing, that I'm still getting better at. Each rep is gold when it comes to that, just because I still have some stuff to develop on in the pass-getting game, but it's always been more of a fluent thing for me," Reynolds said. "I feel good out there. It's just remembering my technique when I'm out there, and just trusting that.



Tight end Luke Reynolds (85) celebrates with wide receiver Tyler Johnson (11) after Reynolds scores a touchdown during the Penn State football game against Purdue on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

confidence in my blocking."

the chance to make a big impact in the passing game, too, as he had a career high in targets,

Reynolds' performance against

was also just right for him to have Now Reynolds has been given a big impact in a game, and more of the same should be expected going forward.

definitely boost catches and receiving yards in confidence. Just being very fortunate to have a lot of those reps,' Reynolds said. "It was just the FIU was partially due to the way the game went, I guess, if We go against the best defense in chemistry he built with Drew Al-you will. Nevada (I) didn't have the country, so it gives me a lot of lar this offseason, but the time as many targets, but the game

plan for each week is different. So just trusting the process, trusting what Coach (Andy Kotelnicki's) got for the offense has really just been my focus point and just letting everything else unfold for

> To email reporter: ajl7167@psu.edu. Follow her on X @lexielinderman.

Practice observations

By Lyle Alenstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For the first time since Ryan Barker went 4-for-4 on field goal attempts against USC in 2024, the Penn State special teams unit had buzz following its win against

This was in large part due to Gabe Nwosu, the 6-foot-6, 297-pound punter who booted one 67 yards in his first official game as the starter — he didn't record an attempt against Nevada in

So when Nwosu and the rest of the specialists were on the practice field on Wednesday, heads immediately turned to the unit. The media has never seen them in action during its viewing sessions — it still won't, as the group left the practice field and trotted back inside Holuba Hall as the flock of media representatives hit

rom the field closest to the meover. It was running backs Nick Singleton and Kaytron Allen who

Drew Allar. "God, that gets me fired up Kaytron," offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki yelled after a rep

tailbacks have combined for 45 carries for 282 yards and five scores. They both reached the feat of 3,000 rushing yards in their Penn State careers on Saturday, while Allen notched a singlegame career-best with his 144 yards.

So far this year, Allen has up the field." looked like the better running back. James Franklin emphasized on Monday that Singleton needs to loosen up and play free.



Offensive line coach Phil Trautwein walks during Penn State football practice at Holuba Hall on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.

he moved on to working with the rade bottles, after working with tight ends. As has been the case through the first two games, Khalil Dinkins, Luke Reynolds and Andrew Rappleyea worked

Allar, on the other hand, didn't have his best game against FIU. He completed 57.6% of his passes for 200 yards and a pair of scores. As the specialists departed He missed some routine throws, the unit improved from Week 1 and said after the game he didn't dia entrance, the offense took think his performance was "good "meat on the bone" with their

While Allar needs to clean some exclusively fielded handoffs from things up, the pass-catchers had a few bad drops, notably Dinkins. Franklin said Monday he needs to see improvement from the unit come Saturday against Villanova.

om Allen. "We have too many drops," In 2025, the tandem of senior Franklin said. "That JUGS ma-Lasch Building right now."

So the wide receivers worked with Allar, working on out routes, corners and curls. Wide receivers coach Marques Hagans urged the unit to play with intensity, shouting at Liam Clifford to "get

While the wideouts worked, the offensive line resumed its spot in the corner of the field. Anthony Donkoh, Cooper Cousins and TJ Once Allar was done working Shanahan Jr. stood with their with his veteran running backs, helmets off sipping out of gato-

assistant offensive line coach Bill Queisert and graduate assistant Kevin Ceh.

As they waited for the rest of the offensive line and defensive line to join them for a drill, the trio yelled at the rest of their teammates to hurry up. Franklin said to Week 2, but they still left some performance.

The offense needs to see strides in several areas. The defense on the other hand, has been close to perfect, allowing 11 points and forcing four turnovers through two games.

While the unit has performed, chine should be burning up in the there's always ways to get better. Defensive coordinator Jim Knowles flipped the switch from his quiet self to a loud, boisterous presence on the field when linebacker Keon Wylie messed up.

> "What the f- are you doing Keon? Come over and stay over here," Knowles screamed as he explained where Wylie went wrong on a play.

> > To email reporter: Ica5223@psu.edu. Follow him on X @LAlenstein.

Fisher returns

By Lyle Alenstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Zuriah Fisher is a self proclaimed "mama's boy."

Johnson, has dealt with sickness throughout her life. Fisher has dealt with adversity as well, having significant injuries during his collegiate career.

But his mom never gave up, so Fisher said he wouldn't either. The defensive end hasn't back on the field.

for her whole life," Fisher said via Zoom Tuesday morning. "I've seen her battle through a lot of pain, so I was just thinking, I've never seen my mom quit. Why would I quit? And also, I love football, I don't want to give it up."

to suit up Week 1 against Nevada, but when he wasn't at practice the Wednesday during the media viewing session of practice, alarm bells went off given his in-

port was released shortly after. and he was listed as inactive for the contest.

frustration, but it wasn't like I was frustrated like last year, or like the year before that, when I was out," Fisher said. "I knew I was going to come back this year. So I was definitely frustrated, but I knew I was going to be back."

the program thought it would be best for him to sit the game out. He walked into Beaver Stadium wanting to suit up, but was shut down.

got his chance. Fisher didn't

total any tackles, but got to the backfield on several occasions to

mother, Tramane

suited up since the Peach Bowl loss against Ole Miss in 2023, but was inspired by his mom as he worked hard every day to get "My mom, she was kind of sick

Fisher was seemingly on track

jury history. He walked out of the tunnel during pregame with a brace on his right leg. The availability re-

"It was definitely some

Fisher wanted to play, but On Saturday against FIU, he make an impact on plays. "It's the greatest feeling in

the world. Honestly, it feels so good to be back playing because it really felt like it's been so long since I played," Fisher said. "So it definitely felt good to be out there playing with my brothers and everything and playing in front of the fans.'

Penn State's defensive end room is young outside of senior Dani Dennis-Sutton and Fisher.

Getting Fisher back, who's in his sixth year of playing college football, gave the room a seasoned presence back on the gridiron. 'It was great having him back.

Probably played a little bit more than what I wanted him to play in terms of kind of just rep count," James Franklin said on Monday. "He looked quick off the ball. He looked confident. Mentally, looked confident. Physically, looked confident. Emotionally, had a big smile on his face. Was flying around and having fun. So I think that was big for us. We're young at defensive end, so that experience and that leadership is important for us."

The last five years for Fisher have been, as he put it, "mentally and physically draining." Yet, it was all worth it for him, as Saturday he suited up in the blue and white for game action for the first time in 619 days.

"I felt so happy to be back. Like the whole week, I was thinking about football. Thinking about the stadium and everything - everything about Beaver Stadium," Fisher said. "So it felt real good to be back."

> To email reporter: Ica5223@psu.edu. Follow him on X @LAlenstein.

COLLEGIAN FOOTBALL STAFF PREDICTIONS



PENN STATE: 36 VILLANOVA: 0



PENN STATE: 60 VILLANOVA: 6



LYLE ALENSTEIN

PENN STATE: 48 VILLANOVA: 0



PENN STATE: 43 VILLANOVA: 7

STRIPES OVER CHECKS

Explaining the branding switch from Nike to adidas

By Lyle Alenstein THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State has been with Nike since 1993. The partnership spanning over three decades came to a close on Friday afternoon.

In comes adidas, as the university will be transitioning from the checks to the stripes as soon as July 1, 2026 for a 10-year

What does this branding change mean for Penn State?

NIL Backing, partnerships Part of this deal will allow for

Penn State's student-athletes across all 31 varsity sports to take advantage of Name, Image and Likeness opportunities. "We are excited to partner

with Penn State to equip all 800-plus student-athletes with top-of-the-line products industry-leading NILopportunities," adidas Vice President of Sports Marketing, North America, Chris McGuire said in a press release. When Tennessee signed

with adidas in August, the company said that it was offering "unprecedented NIL opportunities" to those that play for the Volunteers.

That's been evident on many fronts across college athletics. Arizona State quarterback Sam Leavitt, Nebraska quarterback softball pitcher NiJaree Canady are all athletes that have signed lucrative deals with adidas.



A pool reflects the Penn State logo in the hydrotherapy room in the Greenberg Indoor Sports Complex.

athletes spanning across all no co-branded merchandise done America, John Miller said. "We see than they have previously. In the donned the swoosh. release, it highlighted getting justified backing for women's volleyball and wrestling.

It also could result in co-branding opportunities with professional athletes. In the release, Micah Parsons showcased his support as an adidas-sponsored athlete.

'Penn State helped mold me into the man I am today, and I've experienced firsthand how adidas invests in their athletes with the same championship mindset I adopted in Happy Valley," Parsons wrote. "This partnership is about refusing to settle for anything less than the best for my fellow Nittany Dylan Raiola and Texas Tech Lions — I can't wait to watch us dominate in the Three Stripes."

Former Penn State This can lead to Penn State represented by Nike. There was adidas

sports to bring in bigger deals with him when the Nittany Lions

More of a priority

Oregon. Alabama. Ohio State. Texas. Michigan.

All of the aforementioned schools carry the Nike logo across its athletic apparel. In turn, this creates a chance for Penn State to climb the totem pole.

As a result, the Nittany college program represented by adidas, with Texas A&M and recently signed Tennessee as of last month being others of representation. significance.

"adidas is partnering with universities rich tradition and championship

this new agreement as a unique opportunity for us to help shape the next chapter of Penn State Athletics while staying true to everything that makes the

Nittany Lions an iconic brand." Oregon will forever be the primary school for Nike, as Phil Knight's the co-founder of the brand and is a graduate of the university. He's openly donated a large sum of money to the Lions will have a drop off in Ducks to support the athletic competition to reach the top improvements of his alma mater.

With Penn State going to adidas, it gives them a chance to climb to the top of the brand's

committed to Keeping up with the times

The departure from Nike might like Penn State that possess leave a sour taste in the mouth of some of the Happy Valley running back Saquon Barkley was potential in equal measure, faithful. Afterall, apartnership that North started in 1993 may be a hard

thing to get rid of, especially if the swoosh has been on all Penn State branded apparel.

there's still While commitment to get better on the field and the showings in game-action, money has become the name of the game whether you like it or not.

it's Whether talent, spending in the transfer portal or on recruits, building elite facilities and hiring qualified staff, money will need to be in the picture to find quality players in pursuit of a national championship.

Nike and Penn State have had a loyal relationship, but when the Nittany Lions have an opportunity to try and become the top represented school for a brand, it makes sense to go for it instead of sitting behind Oregon.

the spring, Beaver Stadium became West Shore Home Field at Beaver Stadium due to the opportunity to be funded by West Shore Home, a Pennsylvania-based remodeling service owned by Penn State graduate B.J. Werzyn.

Vice President Intercollegiate Athletics Pat Kraft hasn't backed away from anything since arriving in State College in July 2022, and the switch from Nike to adidas shows that he's once again willing to do what it takes to bring national championships home to Happy

> To email reporter: Ica5223@psu.edu. Follow him on X @LAlenstein.

King Mack learns plenty

By Will Horstman

Safety King Mack hit the open field and reached 20.1 mph. It was

Nevada on Aug. 30, and he was amid a 73-yard kickoff return. Mack heard the Nittany Lions' fans roar from the stands, "unrealistic highlighting the feeling" he felt and the lessons he

late in the second quarter against

learned while starting his second stint with Penn State. "It's a great feeling being back at Beaver (Stadium)," Mack said Tuesday via Zoom. "I missed it so much. Being back at Beaver, the other side." energy of the fans, it's different.

(James) Franklin to being open arms to allow me to come back in and actually make an impact." Mack was a 2023 247Sports

composite 4-star out of St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He committed to Penn State and primarily played on special teams his freshman year, appearing in all 13 games and recording three tackles.

Mack opted to search for greener pastures following the season, landing at Alabama. He played in 13 games and made 14 tackles with the Crimson Tide in

He entered the transfer portal actually after the season and re-joined that

Mack learned plenty of lessons during his time in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as Mack said he learned to not speed up his development. "What I realized is that your

coaches, they're gonna put you in the best situation that they feel for you," Mack said. "I didn't see that fully as a freshman, but once I got to Alabama, I realized that (Penn State safeties coach Anthony Poindexter) and the rest of the coaches honestly did put me in the best situation, and me leaving also showed me that the grass isn't always greener on the

He also noted a typical recruit I'm definitely blessed to be back. of his caliber might get caught Thank god for allowing coach up in wanting to instantly make an impact at the collegiate level, but he recognized to trust the coaching staff's process.

Had Mack stayed with Penn State in 2024, it's possible he could've seen a sizable role in the secondary. Starting safety Kevin Winston Jr. went down with an injury that caused him to miss the majority of the year, and Mack mentioned at local media day in August he "would be that next safety up" if he was still with the blue and white.

But there was an advantage for Mack to be with the Crimson Tide last season.

"That was my first time playing a team

Tennessee,"Macksaid. "So I could definitely say my football IQ and understanding of the game rose being in the SEC for a year."

Through two games this season. Mack's held considerable role Nittany Lions so far. His kick return is the highlight, but he's also been a contributor on defense.

has played on 44 Mack snaps between both contests, recording nine tackles. coverage, Mack has yet to allow a completion and has one pass break up.

It's the "brotherhood" he had with his fellow 2023 freshman at Penn State that he missed his guys, Mack's a piece in the puzzle as the Nittany Lions hold championship expectations this

'We all got brought here for a reason, and coach Franklin, he's seen something in us that other programs probably didn't Mack said. "With that whole class - me, Tony Rojas, Ty Blanding, Elliot (Washington II), Zion Tracy — we're all just dawgs, like we bring that mentality and that energy and that swagger to the team that we

To email reporter: wmh5351@psu.edu. Follow him on X @WillHorstman_.



measures

Per PFF, Singleton had an

which

elusiveness rating of zero

the success of a running back

independent of blocking. It looked

like there were a few times

Singleton simply made the

wrong decision, running toward

defenders instead of in open

better back against FIU. He even

had a 67-yard rushing touchdown

when he's not usually known for

breakaway speed and averaged 9

yards per carry. Simply, Singleton

Stock up: Chaz Coleman

While people were concerned

before the 2025 season that Penn

State didn't have the depth it

needed at defensive end, Chaz

Coleman is proving that's not the

two tackles for loss and a strip

sack fumble that he recovered

himself and nearly took to the

what we saw in camp," James

Franklin said. "He is quick, he's

twitchy, he's athletic ... I think

you're just going to see him

It's clear Coleman is special,

continue to get better."

"You guys are starting to see

Coleman had four solo tackles,

needs to step it up.

Kaytron Allen looked like the

Quarterback Drew Allar prepares to throw the ball during the Penn State THON football game against Florida International in Beaver Stadium.

Stock up, stock down

Saturday,

By Lexie Linderman THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's offensive performance left much to be desired in a 34-0 win over FIU, but the defense built off its strong start under Jim Knowles. Like always, some players had

a good week, while some struggled to make a big impact. Here's whose stock was

boosted during the Week 2

Stock up: Luke Reynolds

As Drew Allar and the offense struggled to get anything going, Luke Reynolds popped up as a safe target. The sophomore tallied seven catches for 58 yards, both of which were career highs.

Revnolds has been the de facto No. 2 tight end to start the season with Khalil Dinkins getting the starting nod. But through two weeks, Reynolds has seven more catches and 36 more yards than

"Luke's a really good athlete. Obviously, I think we've seen that over his first two years here. He's grown a lot in both the running and passing game, so it's really cool to see that payoff for him," Allar said postgame. "He definitely had more targets and catches this week, which was really cool to see, because he's a dynamic football player with the ball in his hands.' The tight end flashed during his

playing time behind Tyler Warren last season, but now Reynolds is expected to step up with a bigger role, and he did just that versus the Panthers.

Stock down: Nick Single-

Through two weeks, Nick Singleton hasn't looked like the best running back in the Big Ten which is what he's supposed to be. He played significantly better in Week 2 than he did the week prior, but something still looks off.

There were a few instances where Singleton could've taken a carry to the end zone, but each

time he got tripped up right

before his breakaway. He also

struggled greatly on third down

with just two and three yards on

his pair of third down carries.

Allar has the potential to be

But Allar is a veteran who up at some point soon.

and Saturday was the breakout party for the true freshman.

case at all.

Stock down: Drew Allar

Drew Allar finished the win over FIU with 200 yards and two touchdowns, but his stat line doesn't tell the whole story. He was missing easy throws and looked either nervous or scared against an inferior opponent.

one of the best quarterbacks in the country, but he once again didn't perform like it despite a solid Week 1 showing. A similar performance in the Big Ten won't end in a good way for the Nittany

knows how to improve and practice, so while his stock may be down this week, it'll likely be

To email reporter: ajl7167@psu.edu.

Alonzo Ford Jr. makes history

By Avery Hill

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Alonzo Ford Jr. got off the ball at the snap, and his spidey senses immediately kicked in. "I thought it was a screen or

something. I looked back and I was like, 'dang,'" Ford said postgame. "Turned around and postgame. "Turned around and "It feels good to go and make quarterback was throwing the a play for my team," Ford said. ball, so I just caught it." Ford reacted the same way

fellow defensive tackle Zane Durant did a week before, and FIU quarterback Keyone Jenkins put it right in Ford's lap for an interception, making history in Penn State's 34-0 win over FIU. The Richmond, Va. native

recorded his first career interception and joined Durant as the first pair of defensive tackles to have a pick in a season since Frank Giannetti and Jim Deter did so in 1990.

"It was surreal," Ford said. "Kind of happened in slow motion a little bit. I tried to run, I got tackled, so it was quick."

Ford may not have housed it, but he was ecstatic, flashing a smile at linebacker Dom DeLuca as he came to celebrate with him. "I thought he was going to

take it all the way to the house,"

DeLuca said.

Durant rumbled down to the year, I lost a couple of pounds and Nevada 6-yard line during his pick last week, so once Ford got to the sideline, Durant got on him about not taking it further. Regardless, Ford made a play that halted a crucial drive from FIU with the Nittany Lions up 7-0

'Getting back out there and getting my feet underneath me, it definitely feels great." The play marked a big part

in the second quarter.

of Ford's return to play, as he's played in 13 games in Happy Valley since transferring from Old Dominion in 2023. Ford missed the entirety of his first campaign with an injury and missed the tail end of the 2024 season after an

injury against Minnesota. Missing spring ball, it was a long way back for him.

As part, Ford aimed to drop some weight and did so before he was cleared to return to action in August. Now, he starts alongside

Durant, and though he hasn't stuffed the stat sheet, he added his pick to two tackles in the shutout of FIU.

"I'm definitely still making progress," Ford said. "It's always room for improvement, but I definitely feel like, last year to this

feel a little bit faster."

As it stands, Ford and Durant are the only Nittany Lions with interceptions this season. Zakee Wheatley was sure to celebrate after Ford's play, but the veteran safety knew the play was a bit out of the ordinary.

"It's different if I go catch a pick, then Alonzo Ford go catch a pick, as it should be," Wheatley said. "That's crazy, and that's rare." Wheatley added it creates a

"competitive chip" between the defensive backs and the guys up front now that the duo of defensive tackles have both gotten an interception. Penn State's defense has given up 11 points total this

eason, but neither Wheatley nor Ford is overstating the picks as the Nittany Lions continue on to Week 3 of the 2025 season. "We're scratching surface," Ford said. "Getting

underneath us right now. So we just got to keep working." To email reporter: amh8304@psu.edu.

guys back, really getting our feet

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