Voter suppression still a factor for many during election season

BY SADAF NIKZAD
CORRESPONDENT

Voting rights and voter suppression have been a problem in the United States throughout history. Even though it is less common today, many eligible voters still face voter suppression.

“In the earliest election, only white, male property owners could vote,” said Erik Herron, a WVU political science professor.

While the 15th and 19th Amendments extended voting rights to people of color and women, voter suppression is still an issue many face today.

Herron said to prevent voter suppression, the question of what values the U.S. holds when conducting an election has to be examined.

“If we think that we should be maximizing the opportunity for everyone who is an eligible voter to vote, then we need to think about what are the structural impediments to voting and to reduce those structural impediments,” Herron said.

Herron said reducing the steps citizens have to take to vote often reduces security. Voter ID laws have been put in place to decrease voter impersonation, but these ID laws can be a form of voter suppression.

“When officials are targeting voters because of their perceptions of who they are, who they are likely to vote for, any protected class – if there is an effort to keep people from voting, then that’s certainly voter suppression,” Herron said.

Some common examples of voter suppression include problems with a signature match, closing polling places in minority neighborhoods and voter roll purges.

Voter roll purges happen when people who haven’t voted in the last two or three elections are taken off the voter roll, according to John Kilwein, an associate professor of political science.

“If the person goes to vote, at the voting station, it will say you aren’t registered to vote, and that causes problems,” Kilwein said.

Kilwein, like Herron, also said that voter ID laws are a form of voter suppression.

“In many urban cities, you don’t need a driver’s license, because most people don’t have cars; they use public transportation,” Kilwein said. “Making a person have a photo ID card is targeting a certain kind of voter.”

Many people who engage in voter suppression claim that they’re trying to prevent voter fraud, but voter fraud is a rare issue.

“We need to take steps to prevent this,” Herron said. “While other countries have voter ID laws, they generally provide a national ID to all citizens.”

In the U.S., we don’t have a national ID and this makes the implementation of voter ID much more complicated.”

To help put an end to voter suppression, there are many organizations students can volunteer with or donate to, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Let America Vote and the Black Voters Matter Fund.

The Brennan Center for Justice is another organization that fights to end voter suppression. They have proposed automatic voter registration to help prevent voter roll purges, as well as Acts for Congress to pass that criminalize photo ID laws.

“From my perspective, it’s important to make voting available to as many eligible voters as we can,” Herron said. “Which means that in some respects we sacrifice things like, what some might consider security to increase ease of access, and that’s a trade off we have to, again, as a society, make these choices.”

For a guide on how to vote in person, check out page 3.

The Grind continues to operate after vehicle collides with storefront

BY CRYSTAL CHECK
STAFF WRITER

The front window of The Grind has been boarded up after a hit and run last weekend, but the small business is still open and serving customers downtown.

Around midnight on Oct. 23, management received a call that an unknown driver had hit the front of the coffee shop, located on Wiley Street, then fled the scene. According to workers at The Grind, the planters and entrance stairs were also severely damaged in the accident.

Photos of the damage were posted to their social media accounts Saturday.

“I was just hanging out with some friends... and we get a phone call that the window had been busted in at The Grind,” said Kelsie Archer, bar manager of The Grind. “We asked, ‘Oh God, how bad was it?’”

Employees at the shop began cleaning up immediately, sweeping glass and mounds of dirt from broken plant pots. They placed plywood in the front window of the building and opened the next morning as if nothing had happened.

“We were there at the shop until probably 1:30 cleaning everything up so we could open the next day,” Archer said. “We’re pretty sure it was a drunk driver, just a hit and run... There was dirt all over the sidewalk, all over the steps and even some in the shop.”

The person responsible for the damages has yet to be identified. The Grind didn’t have cameras in the place of the accident, and although the car left behind a headlight and some other pieces from the undercarriage, even the color of the vehicle wasn’t able to be determined.

Archer said an officer on the site of the accident said the driver was seen moving toward the Mountaintop and swerved into the coffee shop, taking out the front of the building. As for repairs, the owner of The Grind has already submitted photos to their insurance company, and Archer said they hope it covers the repairs needed.

“We’ll get through it, we always get through everything. For example, we haven’t closed once during the pandemic,” Archer said. “We’ve always been able to make do. We’re hard headed and stubborn. We love our shop.”

For a guide on how to vote in person, check out page 3.

Elect Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer

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What are the four worst words to say to a WVU WR?
“Here, hold my baby”

accidentally told wvu i have covid happy monday
Building your ballot: a blueprint for voting in the upcoming election

For those who will be voting in West Virginia for the first time during the upcoming 2020 election, being prepared to vote on Election Day can be overwhelming. Knowing what to do on Election Day and what to expect can ensure new voters are prepared to cast their ballots on Nov. 3.

1. **Review sample ballot**
   - Ballots will vary from district, county and state. Citizens can view a sample ballot before voting by going to Ballotpedia, which will show them options for their specific area.

2. **Find polling locations**
   - Polling locations in West Virginia will be open for voting from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2020. Voting times on election day vary by state. Those registered to vote in West Virginia can find their polling location by visiting wv.gov.

3. **Check in at registration table**
   - A form of identification is required, and voters must be registered to vote in the area of the polling location. Multiple forms of identification are acceptable in West Virginia, including the following:
     - Voter registration card
     - WV driver’s license or driver’s license issued by another state
     - US passport or passport card
     - Military ID card issued by the US government
     - Student ID
     - Bank or debit card
     - Utility bill or bank statement issued within 6 months of the date of the election
     - To check voter registration status, visit NASS Can I Vote.

4. **Fill out national ticket**
   - Three sections will be found under the national ticket section. This includes the president, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. For each of the sections, voters will select one candidate.

5. **Fill out state ticket**
   - Under the state ticket, voters will select candidates for governor, secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, attorney general, state Senator and member of House of Delegates.
   - For most of the sections, voters will choose one candidate on this ticket. For the candidates running for House of Delegates, voters can choose up to five. Under each section, voters can also choose to write-in a candidate name if the person they plan to vote for is not listed on the ballot.

6. **Fill out county ticket**
   - With the county ticket, voters will select county commissioner, prosecuting attorney, sheriff and surveyor.
   - For all sections, voters will choose one candidate on this ticket.

7. **Submit ballot**
   - Once the completed ballot is submitted, voters will receive an “I Voted” sticker, and the process is complete.

Graphs are one way that many local residents express support for candidates.

**Student activists prepare for consequential election**

**BY DUNCAN SLADE**

Student activists across campus are preparing for the 2020 election with excitement, fear and a sense of duty.

Beshay Sakla, president of the WVU chapter of College Democrats, voted for Joe Biden, his first time voting for a presidential candidate. “It was honestly such a crazy feeling,” said Sakla, a senior journalism student. “For the last four years, I’ve been so critical of Donald Trump, and it feels so good to actually do something about it.”

While the presidential election at the top of the ticket drives turnout, student activists emphasize the importance of down-ballot state and local races. “I care more about state politics than I do national politics, simply because I think that state politics is what affects your daily life the most,” said Nathaniel Burdette, senior political science student and president of the WVU chapter of College Republicans. College Democrats and Republicans have held regular meetings this semester to talk about current events and meet with a variety of candidates. Some members of the clubs have been phone banking for local candidates as well doing some in-person canvassing.

Burdette became involved with campaigns in high school. After voting in the June primary, he was so excited that he wore the “I voted” sticker all day long. This November, Burdette said he plans to travel all day long. This November, he wore the “I voted” sticker, and the process is complete.

“We know voting is more important than it has ever been,” she said. Corinne Connor, a conservative activist and senior political science student, said she wishes she had better options for president, but will still vote because she feels it’s her duty. She said politics can feel like winners and losers, but little will be different regardless of who wins.

“No matter who wins... there’s not going to be a huge change,” Connor said. “The policy process done right takes time, and I think that’s deliberate and good. I don’t think overnight, if Donald Trump is elected, the world is going to catch on fire. And I don’t think the world is going to catch on fire if Joe Biden wins.”

For student activists, the work doesn’t stop when the polls close.

“Whether Trump is re-elected or whether Joe Biden is elected, I think there is still work to be done,” Sakla said. “Things are going to change if we win this election and keep the heat on politicians so they understand the people that sent them there.”
Student use of Carruth Center remains similar to past years despite pandemic

BY DANIELLE REEVES
CORRESPONDENT

The Carruth Center, WVU’s mental health center, has not seen much fluctuation in the number of students using its services despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Janice Shaw, a supervised staff psychologist, said the center is offering similar service rates to previous years. She said if all students were currently on campus, she believes rates would increase. “We suspect that given that so many of our students are engaged in virtual coursework and are out of state that they are accessing clinical services in their home communities,” Shaw said. “Given the pandemic, we would anticipate having an increase in services if students were all on campus.”

This semester, psychiatry and crisis appointments have decreased, while attendance to outreach programs have increased, Shaw said. The Carruth Center has been hosting a wide variety of events for students such as nature and self-care workshops, a wellness retreat, webinars and support/discussion groups for quarantined students. The center has also been collaborating with other organizations on campus, such as pumpkin painting partnered with the LGBTQ+ Center.

“In terms of outreach, with the pandemic we were aware that many students would not be returning to campus and we increased outreach efforts drastically,” Shaw said. “By doing this, we have been able to reach a larger and broader range of students.”

Shaw said most students using the Carruth Center services seem to prefer short term, individual counseling and attending the wellness programs in order to healthily manage during stressful times. “It has been harder for students to connect naturally like they have been able to in the past, understandably leading to increased isolation and feelings of disconnect from others,” Shaw said. Shaw said students have expressed anxiety and stress surrounding online class management, concern for at-risk loved ones and living during a pandemic.

“Additionally, although not a new concern, students in minoritized communities can also experience an added layer of stress due to systemic oppression,” Shaw said.

Bear breaks in to Milan Puskar Stadium

BY DUNCAN SLADE
PHOTO EDITOR

In the early hours of Sunday morning, West Virginia University Police officers responded to an unusual call: a baby bear was loose in Milan Puskar Stadium. According to a brief police report, two officers entered the stadium gates and approached the baby bear before it ran away.

“A WVU student walks to class in the Life Sciences Green on Oct. 14.”

“I’ve been here for seven years, and I’ve never heard of a bear in the stadium,” said Lindsay Baleie, UPD administrator.

“Steve Aruch, a wildlife biologist with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, said bears passing through towns in the region is not uncommon.

“Every year, we’ll get calls,” Aruch said. “There’s a fairly high population of bears in the [Monongalia] county, Morgantown area and northern Preston County.”

Based on mating seasons, he estimated the bear cub that found a way into the stadium would be around a year old.

The last time a bear entered the stadium, it was from Baylor University. The Mountaineers hosted Baylor earlier this fall, winning 27-21 in double-overtime on Oct. 3.

According to the police report, the bear weighed 50-60 pounds.
Trick-or-treating still on following city council vote

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Imagine yourself in fourth or fifth grade and having a Halloween trick or treat taken from you. For Morgantown’s youngsters, this concern was eliminated by a city council vote this month.

“The motivation [for the vote] was to allow kids and families to have fun in their neighborhoods and to keep safe by wearing masks,” said Jenny Selin, Morgantown city council person in the fourth ward. “So, taking precautions, but they should be able to have their fun and do something in their neighborhood.”

On Oct. 6, Selin cast her vote in favor of allowing trick or treat in Morgantown, adding her voice to the court’s unanimous decision. This means that, despite the pandemic, children will be allowed to trick or treat from 6 to 8 p.m. on Halloween.

According to Selin, her vote was informed by the opinions of the people in her community.

“I had talked to lots of people in my neighborhood who said, ‘So many things got canceled this year, I think we can do this one safely. Let the kids have their fun,’ and then some of the elderly people in the neighborhood said they really looked forward to seeing the kids every year,” she said.

Selin also addressed concerns about the event.

“I definitely had a couple of neighbors who were very concerned and probably won’t participate, so if people don’t want to participate, they should just turn off their porch lights and close their blinds,” she said.

Selin said she looked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and national guidelines before casting her vote.

“We waited, we postponed making the decision so that we could see what the COVID landscape was gonna look like when we got to this point and then we made a decision,” Selin said.

According to the CDC’s website for Halloween celebrations, one-way trick-or-treating with individually wrapped goodies is considered a moderate-risk activity. This is a step above activities like carving pumpkins, decorating a house or having a Halloween scavenger hunt.

Barry Wendell, Morgantown City Councilperson for the seventh ward, also voted in favor of the move.

“I think it would be very hard to cancel Halloween. You know, next to Christmas, it’s the biggest holiday,” Wendell said. “I just didn’t think we could do it.”

Wendell said that alternative options for Halloween were considered by the council, but none fit the bill.

“We talked about having some sort of an event, but it just seemed like it would be hard to pull together,” Wendell said. “So it’s sort of being left to the individuals who are giving out candy to take whatever precautions they feel are necessary.”

Wendell, however, said that he didn’t think the Monongalia Health Department itself was consulted.

Clearance candy may be the way to go this Halloween season

BY LARA BONATESTA
CORRESPONDENT

Every year after candy is bought for trick-or-treating during Halloween, candy prices drop.

Joshua Hall, professor and chair in the economics department at WVU, explained that an excess of confectionary is a major factor.

“Halloween’s like the one time of the year, maybe Easter would be the other, where we have a change in our consumption patterns around candy,” Hall said. “Normally you or I go to the store, we’re checking out we’re like, ‘Oh, there’s an Almond Joy, I haven’t had Almond Joy in a while.’ I’m gonna consume the Almond Joy right then and there, but Halloween, people are buying a large amount for some date out in the future, for Halloween day.”

Hall said that stores aim to meet the increased demand for candy and are more likely to buy too much than to risk losing money by not buying enough.

“If people can’t find what they’re expecting to find at the places they normally shop, you might lose them for other purchases as well,” Hall said.

Hall also said that prices do not necessarily rise before Halloween.

“Any time demand for any good, Halloween candy, or paper, or Easter, or eggs around Easter, it goes up. Somebody has an opportunity, an incentive to try to supply that, and as long as their costs aren’t going to go up to do that, there’s no reason price should increase,” he said.

Stores also try to avoid having a shortage of popular candy.

“I think there’s lots of uncertainty over what candy is going to be in demand,” Hall said. “And so it might seem a lot in aggregate; you know if we look at the sale bins after Halloween, but again, it’s better to be able to satisfy the demands of customers, and then get what you can afterwards.”

Heather Joyce, a senior elementary education student, said that she, like many people, likes to sample a variety of different flavors around Halloween.

“I try to get a variety of candy so that everyone’s tastes can be accommodated for, so I’ll try to get a variety pack, like one of chocolate and then like one of sour candy,” Joyce said.

Joyce typically buys her candy at Kroger. She also likes to shop after Halloween to get clearance candy.

“The caramel apple lollipops — the actual hard candy part is apple flavored and then they’re dipped almost in caramel so it tastes like a caramel apple,” she said. “It feels fall, Halloween-ish.”

As an elementary education student, Joyce also described the types of candy she would consider buying for a class.

“I’d probably get something that’s not too unhealthy, something that’s got, maybe something easy and like not real messy,” Joyce said. “Like an M&M’s. M&M’s are pretty, you can hold them in your hand and they won’t melt too bad, or like something sour, like Skittles, and they’re colorful and fun, so who doesn’t love that?”

Halloween decorations on a front porch in Morgantown on Oct. 28.

Halloween decorations on a front porch in Morgantown on Oct. 28.

Carved pumpkins on Oct. 28.
The Pride of West Virginia deserves more respect

BY EMILY REXROAD  OPINION EDITOR

Like any other kid in West Virginia, I was raised on WVU football and basketball games. Although I’m not a sports fan, it’s always interesting to see how everyone prepares for game days.

As a freshman, to say my first year of college has been disappointing is an understatement. However, not all of it is the University’s fault; coronavirus has taken a lot from all of us. For the first football game open to viewers, I was lucky enough to receive a ticket to watch the game in person, making this year just a little bit better.

Looking out on Mountaineer Field to see our Kansas football teams, it felt weird having the stadium so empty and the usual pre-game traditions not happening around me.

Even more strange was the marching band not in its usual attire and presence at the game. The usual 300-plus-person band was cut down to one-third, looking more like a high school pep band than a college marching band.

What seems to always be a running theme is that football brings the University the most money, and because of that, other organizations on campus aren’t seen with the same importance. This means that groups like band and cheer go unnoticed, as if they aren’t part of game day like the football team.

Many band members are preparing for a career field involving the arts, whether that be teaching or performance. Not only is this depriving them of participating in a campus-oriented organization, it’s depriving them of their educational needs.

For many music education students, marching band not only fills a small group requirement, but provides an opportunity to improve their leadership skills and work with a section. With marching band primarily being a fall season activity, upperclassmen can find this year as a limited experience before they venture out into the “real world.”

If the entire football team is allowed to play against students from different states, it should at least be considered that students from the same university be allowed to play together in a stadium that typically holds 60,000 people. “They reserved all this space for fans but couldn’t provide the space for us to be there,” said Sean O’Callaghan, a junior music education student.

Prior to the Baylor game, students quickly spread the news that The Pride of West Virginia would be in attendance. In reality, band members were notified a short one hour before their call time that they wouldn’t be allowed to go.

With COVID-19, it’s been an important process to test student-athletes on a weekly basis, but the band, which doesn’t get the rapid results like student-athletes were granted, was left with inconclusive results and a few positive cases.

Since the Baylor game, the band has been getting tested before expected home games, but without the rapid results, it raises the possibility of contracting the coronavirus between getting tested and receiving the results.

How does the University cherry pick which groups get to continue their activities per usual and which groups are required to condense, mask up and sit out on events?

“it’s not really right for us to not be able to be a full group and [football players] too,” said Emily Carroll, a senior engineering student.

Like many aspects of this year, miscommunication, or lack thereof, has harmed students and put them in a place where they feel like they aren’t being heard. It’s not much to ask for honesty and transparency from an academic institution.

The Pride of West Virginia practice at the WVU Coliseum on Sept. 4.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation was a mockery of process

BY ABBY SMITH  PODCAST EDITOR

On Oct. 26, Justice Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed to the Supreme Court in a 52-48 Senate vote. Justice Barrett’s confirmation came as no surprise to many and marks a landmark shift of the Court’s ideology. As the youngest person ever confirmed to the Supreme Court, this ideological shift could have lasting impacts for many years to come.

Justice Barrett’s experience includes work as a law clerk for Judge Laurence Silberman and Justice Antonin Scalia. After leaving her clerk positions, she practiced law in the District of Columbia area before returning to her alma mater, Notre Dame, to teach constitutional law and federal courts. Having only worked as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for three years, she is the least judicially experienced member of the Supreme Court.

Justice Barrett’s confirmation process was not free from controversy. She was nominated on Sept. 26, only eight days after the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She first appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Oct. 12, only answering a few questions and obfuscating the rest. Spanning only 28 days, her nomination to confirmation was one of the shortest in recent history.

The criticism of Justice Barrett comes from a multitude of different groups spanning several issues. Her decisions on cases as a member of the federal court of appeals in Chicago often reflect that of her mentor, Justice Scalia. From abortion to the Affordable Care Act to gay marriage, Justice Barrett has shown through her writing that she is not above reversing long-held court precedents.

At one point during her confirmation hearing, Justice Barrett was asked what materials or notes she had brought along with her to answer questions, and proudly, she presented an empty notepad to the committee. Many senators tried to play this as a sign of her strength and intelligence, but in my eyes, it was mockery of the Senate process and the practice of law itself. The practice of law is not a closed-book exam, and it is the responsibility of those who hold power to use resources whenever possible to come to the best conclusion when deliberating case outcomes.

Her refusal to answer questions throughout the confirmation process not only makes the American people question her impartiality, it makes them question her credibility. If Justice Barrett cannot answer simple questions about how she feels about issues, how can a legitimate confirmation process ever occur? The answer is simple: it can’t.

This confirmation process was nothing more than a political circus and an insult to those in desperate need of financial relief due to the pandemic.

The fact of the matter is that Justice Barrett is not qualified for the position she now holds. Now appointed to the highest court in the land, her confirmation marks a shift of the Court’s ideology. As the only judge to reverse long-held court precedents, the American people deserve a justice who now occupies her seat.
CROSSWORD

Across
1 Charts
5 Still
9 Large bushes
14 Off-Broadway award
15 Appeal
16 Mostly just to ride on
17 Made music vocally
18 Actor Alda
19 Egg-shaped
20 Arose
22 Incomparable
24 Japanese money
25 National capital
27 Loots
31 Rice wine
32 Fish
34 Brooch
35 Bite
38 Avenue
40 Excess
42 Swift
44 Santa's helper
46 Spasm
47 Expression
48 Liberal (abbr.)
50 Y earn
51 Attack
52 Typing rate
55 Tariff
57 President (abbr.)
59 Iodine compound
61 Cereal
64 Snooze
66 Common cats name
68 "I dream of ___"
71 Loop
73 Save
74 Pergola
76 Island
77 Lotto
78 Time period
79 Luck

Down
1 Covered with a soft green plant
2 Reduce
3 Pinyon
4 Sego lily's bulb
5 Certified public accountant
6 Full of allusions
7 Tends
8 Psycho
9 Th ousand (abbr.)
10 Common dog's name
11 Epoch
12 Eastern Time
13 Espy
21 Cell stuff
23 Status __
26 Precedes an alias
28 Occular
29 White barked tree
30 Most people would not chose one
31 Guip
33 Last month of year
35 Comprehend
36 Lowest point
37 Swiftly
39 Wing
41 Doctor's picture
43 Morning moisture
45 Girl from Philippines
49 Berth
53 bull Be careful if you own one
54 Lots of them in Zoos
56 Ex-serviceman
58 Descendant
60 Author of "The Inferno"
61 Very fat
62 White poplar
63 Used a keyboard
65 Air (prefix)
67 Same
68 Chat
69 Befor, poetically
70 BB association
71 Loop
73 Save
74 Pergola
75 Volcano
76 Island
77 Lotto
78 Time period
79 Luck

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

PET OF THE DAY

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CAMERON THOMPSON
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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at krazydad.com

For answers, visit thedaonline.com
WVU eyes return to win column against K-State

BY MATTHEW DIGBY
SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia University football program took a step back last weekend when it dropped a close game to a struggling Texas Tech team, and it eyes a return to the win column when No. 16 Kansas State comes to Morgantown looking to stay unbeaten in conference play.

The Mountaineers (3-2, 2-2 Big 12) were plagued by more dropped passes and a struggling rushing attack that seemed to be gaining momentum in the games prior. WVU only had 91 rushing yards on 29 attempts. The game was decided when a fumble was recovered and taken back for a touchdown to give Texas Tech the lead for good.

Kansas State (4-1, 4-0) is coming off a dominating win against Kansas that saw newly inserted quarterback Will Howard go 17-of-24 for 243 yards and two touchdowns. He is replacing starter Skylar Thompson, who is out for the season with a shoulder injury.

"Will Howard has a real calm demeanor about him," WVU head coach Neal Brown said. "He's a big kid, strong runner. He makes two or three really difficult passes each game he's played for explosive plays."

The Wildcats' leading rusher and receiver has been freshman Deuce Vaughn. On the season, he has carried the ball 61 times and piled up 309 yards with four touchdowns. He has also hauled in 13 catches for 360 yards and a touchdown. He is averaging over 27 yards per catch.

"They've done a great job with a person, Brown said. "He's elusive, he's an issue. We're going to have to ID him every time he's on the field."

For the Mountaineers to get back on track and win against a tough Kansas State team, running back Leddie Brown will have to get back to his game. Leddie Brown has already carried the ball 102 times through five games for WVU, picking up 592 yards and seven touchdowns rushing. Against Texas Tech, he was limited to only 77 yards on 21 carries.

Quarterback Jarret Doege had a good game in the last meeting against the Red Raiders, according to Neal Brown. He was on target with many of his passes, but many dropped balls made his stat line look a little worse. He finished the game 32-of-50 with 347 yards and a touchdown pass.

"I thought Doege played his best game, probably, in his career here so far," Neal Brown said. "Throwing the football, getting the ball out on time."

The WVU defense has been really set the tone for them. "Just got off to a slow start," Neal Brown said about the defensive performance against Texas Tech. "For whatever reason, we weren't sharp early. The opening series of the game really set the tone for them."

The game against Kansas State is set to kickoff at noon and will be nationally televised on ESPN2.

WVU leads WVU receivers in sophomore season

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With many receivers struggling to get their hands on the ball in the last game, it was not surprising to see the Mountaineers in接收 with the 28 that he has accumulated.

WVU head coach Neal Brown sees Wright continuously improving this season and doesn’t believe he has yet to reach his full potential on the field.

"He loves to play," Brown said. "He does a nice job getting vertical after the catch and he's improving in other ways, too. I don't think he's a finished product, but he is going against a Red Raiders quarterback.

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PHOTO BY BEN QUEEN/USA TODAY SPORTS

Wide receiver Winston Wright Jr. (16) runs toward the endzone after a catch against Kansas.
Week 9 Football Picks: WVU looks to bounce back; Ohio State and Penn State face off in critical matchup

DA SPORTS STAFF

No. 16 Kansas State vs. West Virginia

Matthew Digby, Sports Editor: After losing its first game to Arkansas State at home, I thought Kansas State was primed for a rough year. Since then, the Wildcats have beaten Oklahoma on the road, two narrow wins against Texas Tech and TCU, then dominated Kansas by 41. Now sitting at 4-0 and at the top of the Big 12 standings, Kansas State suddenly could be the team to beat outside of Oklahoma State. However, the Wildcats lost their starting quarterback Skylar Thompson for the season with a shoulder injury. Now, the offense will be controlled by freshman Will Howard. Against Kansas, he went 17-of-24 for 243 yards and two touchdowns. The Mountaineers will be looking to bounce back after a game they let slip away late against Texas Tech. With a tie score, the Red Raiders returned a fumble recovery for a touchdown to end the game. Now the focus shifts to the Wildcats, who are rolling. The Mountaineer defense has been stout all season, but looked tired against Texas Tech, according to head coach Neal Brown. I think the defense steps up against a new quarterback, but the offense continues to struggle. Kansas State pulls out a tough victory, 24-21.

Charles Montgomery, Assistant Sports Editor: Kansas State is rolling after opening the season with a loss to Arkansas State. The biggest issue for the Wildcats? Quarterback Skylar Thompson is out for the season with a shoulder injury. Will Howard took the snaps last week and he did well, throwing for over 200 yards and two touchdowns. However, it was against Kansas. The Wildcats do have their own player like West Virginia’s Leddie Brown. Running back Deuce Vaughn leads KSU in both rushing yards and receiving yards. He’ll need a big day to win on Saturday. That game last weekend was ugly. I’m sorry to say of you who took my suggestion and believed in it because I couldn’t have been more wrong. The good news for WVU is that Thompson is out, and we already saw how the Mountaineers handled a dual threat quarterback in Texas Tech’s Henry Colombi. Doege is getting better with his accuracy, but his receivers aren’t doing him favors with the drops. I’m sorry but I’m going with Kansas State, 30-20. Maybe changing it up will help WVU.

Texas vs. No. 6 Oklahoma State

Digby: The quarterback to start the season for Oklahoma State returned to the field against Iowa State when Spencer Sanders led them to a close victory. He wasn’t great, throwing multiple interceptions in the game. He may need to knock that rust off when they face a much more potent offense against Texas. Quarterback Sam Ehlinger has been carrying the load for the offense, and it has shown at times. He has five interceptions so far this season, but you can’t look past his 24 total touchdowns. This Texas offense will be the best offense Oklahoma State has seen all season long, and it may not be close. The defense has been great this season, but this game against the Longhorns will show if they’re contenders or pretenders. I think this game ends up being a back and forth affair, with Oklahoma State keeping its playoff hopes alive, 42-38.

Montgomery: Texas really needed that win last week against Baylor. The Longhorns had lost two straight games after the overtime fiasco against Oklahoma at Red River, and they needed a rebound. Quarterback Sam Ehlinger hasn’t looked very sharp as of late with multiple interceptions over the past few games. Texas really needs to establish the run game to have any chance of salvaging this season. That means running with Keaontay Ingram, not Ehlinger, 20-plus times. Statement win for the Cowboys against Iowa State. Oklahoma State technically still has a chance to make the College Football Playoff, but I don’t know with the strength of the Big Ten and SEC. Iowa State’s Breece Hall had a field day with 185 rushing yards, and Iowa State finished with 227 total yards on the ground. The talk about Oklahoma State has been the defense, and that game didn’t help the resume all that much defensively. Pokes need to get moving offensively or it will not end well in 2020. Cowboys win, 35-27.

No. 3 Ohio State vs. No. 18 Penn State

Digby: In a normal year, the Penn State whitewash would be primed for a monster matchup coming on Saturday. This year is a little different, but that does not change the impact of this game. Penn State lost to Indiana in Week 1 of the Big Ten season has basically made this a must win if the Nittany Lions have any shot at a Big Ten title or even an outside chance at a playoff spot. Quarterback Justin Fields was nearly perfect in Game 1 against Nebraska, going 20-of-21 for 276 yards and two touchdowns. The Buckeye defense got off to a slow start in the first game when the Cornhuskers marched down the field in no time to go up 7-0. Ohio State did what they so often do and dominated the rest of the game. If this game was in front of the whiteout, I would give Penn State a much greater chance. I think Ohio State pulls away, 49-31.

Montgomery: What a showdown we have here for the Big Ten in its second week. I’m not too concerned about the Buckeyes in this one with quarterback Justin Fields at the helm. He had one in-complete pass against Nebraska and scored three total touchdowns. I think this game comes down to turnovers and penalties. Ohio State only committed three penalties against the Cornhuskers and forced two turnovers. Ugly first game for the Nittany Lions. People said Indiana was dangerous, and it sure was. Quarterback Sean Clifford didn’t look great passing the ball, but he was the leading rusher with 119 yards. That’s great that he’s versatile, but he cannot be the leading rusher each week for PSU to win. I am concerned with Penn State’s penalties and turnovers. One hundred yards in penalties and three turnovers against the Hoosiers. It will be a long night if Penn State repeats that. Ohio State wins, 35-21.

Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields (1) breaks away from a Nebraska tackler on Oct. 24.
Sunahara and Mountaineers look to continue Big 12 success

By Danny Kuhn
Sports Writer

At the start of the 2020 campaign for the No. 15 West Virginia volleyball team, expectations were moderate. As the season has progressed, so have the Mountaineers, who now sit at an impressive 5-3. This ties them for fourth place in the Big 12 conference, after starting the season at 0-2.

“We have a tight-knit group, and they care about each other,” sixth-year head coach Reed Sunahara said. “It was different situation on the road,” Sunahara said. “It was different situation on the road.”

Coming off two straight losses to Kansas State in early October, Sunahara and the Mountaineers regrouped and prepared themselves for a battle with top-10 ranked opponent Kansas. Heading into the weekend against the Jayhawks, expectations surrounding WVU were anything but sky high. However, the team persevered and managed to pull off a shocking upset for the program’s first top-10 victory.

“Beating the No. 10 team in the country is huge, especially on the road,” Sunahara said. “It was different situations both nights, but kind of the same match. We go up two sets to one the first night and then we win in five. The second night, we’re down 2-1 and we come back and force a fifth and ended up winning in the fifth so that was great.”

WVU hasn’t won five conference matches in the Big 12 since the 2017 season, and it won just two matches in 2018. The Mountaineers won three last season, en route to a 13-17 record.

Even with the condensed schedule in 2020, WVU has its sights set on a top three Big 12 finish this season, but large matchups against teams like No. 1 Texas — who is currently undefeated — loom large toward the end of the fall season.

Unfortunately for the Mountaineers, they won’t be able to ride their current wave of momentum into a tournament this fall. Only the Big 12, ACC and Sun Belt conferences are competing, with the rest of the country beginning play this spring.

“We will see what happens when we finish up,” Sunahara said in late October. “Our last two are at Oklahoma, and if we can complete a 16-match fall season, great. Then we are going to prepare for the spring and see what happens with what the NCAA comes up with and be prepared to play again.”

In the general scope of the Big 12, only three teams will be receiving a bid next spring. This spring, only the conference’s second bid. The third bid will potentially be between WVU and Kansas State, as no one below them has a winning percentage over .300.

One thing that is helping Sunahara and the Mountaineers this season is the current schedule format. The current format has them play one team per week instead of the previous two per week. Even so, there are many challenges that both the players and coaches alike have to face.

“The tough thing is the first night we play then you’ve got to come up with a different plan based on what they did against you [the night prior],” Sunahara said. “That part is a little tough, but you are preparing for just one team.”

The next matches for West Virginia are pivotal to its current campaign, including an upcoming matchup at No. 2 Baylor (9-1) beginning on Thursday night. After that, there’s a matchup against Texas (16-0) on Nov. 12-13.

West Virginia will then have matchups against Iowa State and Oklahoma on Nov. 6-7 and Nov. 19-20, respectively.
Every Tuesday, Residence Hall Coordinators Angela Delfine and Patrick O’Donnell host Towers Talk, a podcast by and for Lyon and Braxton Towers. Each week, they’ll bring you an interview with a different member of the WVU community to help you get adjusted to your new campus home!

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