

PENN STATE MEN'S GYMNASTICS



12 NCAA Championship Titles // 3 Big Ten Championships // 6 Nissen-Emery Award Winners // 319 All-America Citations

2018 Schedule / Results

January

Jan. 12-13	at West Point Open \$	7 p.m.
Jan. 20	ARMY WEST POINT	4 p.m.
Jan. 27	ILLINOIS (DD) *	4 p.m.

February

Feb. 9	at Ohio State *	6 p.m.
Feb. 15 & 17	at Winter Cup %	10 p.m.
Feb. 24	MINNESOTA (DD) *	4 p.m.

March

March 3	at Iowa *	8 p.m.
March 10	at Arizona State	9 p.m.
March 17	NEBRASKA *	4 p.m.
Mar. 24	at Michigan	1 p.m.

April

Apr. 6-7	Big Ten Championships ^	7 p.m.
Apr. 20-21	NCAA Championships #	7 p.m.

BOLD CAPS - Home Meets

* - Big Ten Meet | \$ - West Point, N.Y. |
 % - Las Vegas, Nev. | ^ Ann Arbor, Mich.
 # - Chicago, Ill.
 All Times Eastern

Following #PennStateMGYM

Get all the up-to-date news, behind the scenes stories, videos and photos by following Penn State Men's Gymnastics online at GoPSUsports.com and on social media



/PennStateMensGymnastics



@PennStateMGYM



PennStateMGYM



Series Record.....41-18-1 Last Mtg.....Jan. 21, 2017W, 414.200-396.050 Site.....University Park, Pa.	Series Record.....39-11-0 Last Mtg.....Jan. 13, 2017W, 412.350-391.250 Site.....West Point, N.Y.	Series Record.....21-3-0 Last Mtg.....Jan. 13, 2017W, 412.350-390.550 Site.....West Point, N.Y.	Series Record.....58-10-0 Last Mtg.....Jan. 13, 2017W, 412.350-372.250 Site.....West Point, N.Y.	Series Record.....10-0-0 Last Mtg.....Jan. 25, 2014W, 420.900-414.250 Site.....Annapolis, Md..
---	---	--	---	---

2018 RETURNING EVENT LEADERS (2017 RESULTS)

FLOOR EXERCISE	POMMEL HORSE	STILL RINGS	VAULT	PARALLEL BARS	HIGH BAR	ALL-AROUND
						
SAM ZAKUTNEY SOPHOMORE	STEPHEN NEDOROSICK SOPHOMORE	CHRIS SANDS JUNIOR	FAVIAN VALDEZ SOPHOMORE	SAM ZAKUTNEY SOPHOMORE	MICHAEL BURNS JUNIOR	SAM ZAKUTNEY SOPHOMORE
2017 BEST: 14.600	2017 BEST: 14.900	2017 BEST: 14.500	2017 BEST: 14.450	2017 BEST: 14.900	2017 BEST: 14.650	2017 BEST: 83.150

NOTES AND HEADLINES

NITTANY LIONS OPEN 2017 CAMPAIGN AT WEST POINT OPEN

The Penn State men's gymnastics team will start its 2018 campaign on the road at Army West Point, the site of the 2017 National Championship, for the 27th Annual West Point Open Friday, Jan. 12-Saturday, Jan. 13. The Nittany Lions will compete for their fifth-straight title after winning the event from 2014-17 and sweeping the individual event titles in the 2016 campaign.

ROTATION ORDER FOR WEST POINT OPEN

The Nittany Lions will begin the meet on one of its top events, the pommel horse, before moving to the still rings in the second rotation. The Blue and White will then compete on the vault in rotation three and the parallel bars in rotation four. Penn State will cap off the event on the high bar in rotation five and the floor for the final rotation of the evening. The top eight gymnasts will advance to the individual event finals on Saturday. However, only the top-three gymnasts from each school can qualify for the event finals.

PENN STATE HISTORY AT THE WEST POINT OPEN

Penn State has won the West Point Open 19 times in the 26 years of the meet, having won it 10-straight times from 1998-2007. The Nittany Lions are the four-time defending champs, notching a 412.350 in the 2017 season.

Additionally, the Blue and White have won 83 individual event titles at the West Point Open, clinching four individual event titles in the 2017 campaign. Penn State returns three of its four individual event winners from the 2017 season, including senior **Colin Coates**, who will compete for his third-straight pommel horse title at the West Point Open.

The Nittany Lions also return sophomore **Favian Valdez**, who notched the floor exercise title in his freshman season and **Michael Burns**, who is also looking for this third-straight title on the high bar for the Blue and White.

QUICK FACTS

2018 ROSTER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location University Park, Pa.
 Founded 1855
 Enrollment 47,261
 Colors Blue and White
 Conference Big Ten
 Nickname Nittany Lions
 President Dr. Eric J Barron
 Director of Athletics Sandy Barbour
 Athletic Website www.GoPSUsports.com

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach Randy Jepson
 27th Season (Penn State '82)
 Record at Penn State 364-73
 Assistant Coach Carlos Vasquez
 Sixth Season (Temple '84)
 Assistant Coach Tony Beck
 Third Season (Penn State, 2013)

TEAM INFORMATION

Captain Benjamin Cooperman
 Twitter PennStateMGYM
 Facebook Penn State Men's Gymnastics

2017 RECAP

2017 Record 11-4-0
 2017 Big Ten Finish Fourth (411.200)
 2017 All-Big Ten Honors Two
 2017 NCAA Finish (Qualifier) Fourth (410.500)
 2017 All-American Honors Three

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

MGYM Contact Megan Samassa
 Office Phone 814-865-7993
 Cell Phone 814-321-3804
 E-mail mps5768@psu.edu
 Fax 814-863-3165
 Address 101 Bryce Jordan Center
 University Park, PA 16802

PRONUNCIATIONS

Brayden Borromeo Bore-o-mayo
 Stephen Nedoroscik Ned-o-row-sick
 Brennan Pantazis Pan-tah-zis
 Noah Roberson Row-bur-son
 Wyatt Tyndall Tin-dal
 Favian Valdez Fa-vee-ON
 Sam Zakutney Za-coot-knee

Name	Event	Yr.	Ht.	Hometown/High School
Jack Baldwin	PH	Fr.	5-10	Mexico, N.Y./Mexico
Luke Belvedere	VT	So.	5-6	Katy, Texas/Cinco Ranch
Brayden Borromeo	FX/SR/VT	So.	5-6	Littlestown, Pa./Littlestown Senior
Michael Burns	PH/SR/PB/HB	Jr.	5-9	Baltimore, Ohio/Liberty Union
Paker Clayton	AA	Fr.	5-5	Fishers, Ind./Homeschooled
Colin Coates	PH	Sr.	5-8	Emmaus, Pa./Emmaus
Benjamin Cooperman *	PH/SR	Sr.	5-7	Southborough, Mass./Algonquiny
Alex Frack	AA	Fr.	5-4	Nazareth, Pa./Nazareth
Zachary Geiselman	PH	Fr.	6-0	York, Pa./York Suburban
Issac Hammett	SR	So.	5-4	Sacramento, Calif./Jesuit
Quest Hayden	AA	Sr.	5-9	Harrisburg, Pa./Homeschooled
Stephen Nedoroscik	PH	So.	5-5	Worcester, Mass./Worcester Technical
Brennan Pantazis	AA	Fr.	5-5	Sparks, Nev./Edward C. Reed
Michael Pepe-Lage	SR/VT/PB/HB	Fr.	5-6	Middletown, N.J./Christian Brothers Academy
Noah Roberson	SR	R-Jr.	5-4	Williamsville, N.Y./Williamsville South
Chris Sands	FX/SR/VT/PB/HB	Jr.	5-10	Lancaster, Pa./Lancaster Catholic
Benjamin Sky	FX/SR/VT	Fr.	5-2	Concord, N.H./Concord
Joshua Smith	FX/VT	Jr.	5-5	Baton Rouge, La./Homeschooled
Greg Tamargo	FX/SR/VT	Jr.	5-8	Kennett Square, Pa./Unionville
Alex Thomason	FX/VT/PB/HB	R-So.	5-5	Houston, Texas/James E. Taylor
Wyatt Tyndall	AA	Jr.	5-6	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada/Holy Cross
Favian Valdez	AA	So.	5-6	Kearny, N.J./Kearny
Sam Zakutney	AA	So.	5-6	Ottawa, Ontario.E.S.C. Franco Cite

Head Coach: Randy Jepson (Penn State, 1982; 27th Season)

Assistant Coach: Carlos Vazquez (Temple, 1984; Sixth Season)

Assistant Coach: Tony Beck (Penn State, 2013; Third Season)

* - Team Captain

PROJECTED LINEUP

HIGH BAR

TBA

FLOOR

TBA

POMMEL HORSE

TBA

STILL RINGS

TBA

VAULT

TBA

PARALLEL BARS

TBA

NATIONAL POLL

MEET ONE: NEWS & NOTES

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS
ASSOCIATION NATIONAL POLL

Preseason

#	TEAM	Total PTS.	1st Place VOTES
1.	Oklahoma	371	14
2.	Stanford	352	2
3.	Ohio State	346	2
4.	Minnesota	321	
5.	Illinois	314	
6.	Nebraska	274	
7.	<i>Penn State</i>	268	
8.	Iowa	245	
9.	Michigan	243	
10.	California	198	
11.	Air Force	191	
12.	Navy	174	
13.	William & Mary	148	
14.	Army	135	
15.	Arizona State *	107	
16.	Springfield	99	
17.	UIC	84	
18.	Washington *	59	
19.	Temple *	36	
20.	SC United *	25	

2018 Opponents in Bold
* - NCAA Club Program

PENN STATE VS. OPPONENTS AT WEST POINT OPEN

The Nittany Lions own a dominating 169-42-1 overall record against its five opponents at the West Point Open, defeating Temple 58 of the 68 times the two teams have faced off in a dual. Furthermore, Penn State has defeated both Army West Point and Navy over 30 times in the history of the squads, while defeating Springfield 21 times in dual action.

SERIES HISTORY WITH THE BLACK KNIGHTS

Penn State owns a 41-18-1 overall record against Army West Point in dual meets. The Nittany Lions have not dropped a meet to Army West Point since 1962 when the Black Knights handed Gene Wettstone and his squad their lone loss of the season with a 54-42 victory over Penn State.

ALL-TIME SERIES AGAINST NAVY

Penn State owns a 39-11 overall dual record against the Midshipmen, defeating Navy on 28-straight occasions. The Nittany Lions have not dropped a meet to Navy since 1988 when they fell 275.600-275.300 on Feb. 5.

SERIES HISTORY WITH SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE

The Blue and White are 21-3-0 all-time against the Pride in dual meets. The Nittany Lions have not fallen to Springfield since Jan. 11, 1975 when they were defeated 202.60-200.50.

GLANCING AT THE SERIES WITH TEMPLE

Penn State has faced off with Temple in dual meets on 68 occasions, taking 58 victories. The series with the Owls dates back to the 1937 season as the Nittany Lions have met up with Temple more times than any other opponent in the history of the program.

LAST TIME OUT AT THE WEST POINT OPEN

The Penn State men's gymnastics team captured its fourth-straight title at the 26th Annual West Point Open Friday, Jan. 13, 2017. The Nittany Lions scored a 412.350 in their first meet of the season to win the open for the 19th time in program history.

In day two of the meet, the Nittany Lions had 10 individuals compete for event titles as they took home four victories on the evening. **Favian Valdez** picked up his first victory donning the Blue and White, notching a 14.500 on the floor exercise, while **Colin Coates** nabbed the pommel horse win for the second-straight year with a 14.700. In 2016, Coates helped Penn State to the individual event title sweep, winning the pommel horse with a 15.050 in the event. Penn State grabbed its third-straight individual event when **Dominic DiFulvio** came up big on the still rings with a 14.750 and **Michael Burns** capped off the four individual event titles for the Blue and White as he picked up his second-straight high bar title with a 14.650 at the West Point Open, winning the event in the 2016 season as well.

NITTANY LIONS PICKED FIFTH IN BIG TEN PRESEASON POLL

The Penn State men's gymnastics team was picked fifth in the 2018 Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Preseason Coaches' Poll, as announced by the conference office Thursday, Dec. 14. Along with the preseason coaches' poll, sophomores **Stephen Nedoroscik** and **Sam Zakutney** were named to the Gymnast to Watch List for the upcoming season.

For the fourth-straight season, Ohio State grabbed the top spot in the Big Ten Poll, while Minnesota and Illinois rounded out the top three places for the second-straight season. Nebraska came in as the number four preseason team in the conference with Penn State, Iowa and Michigan rounding out Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Preseason Coaches' Poll.

BIG TEN RECORDS

	BIG TEN		OVERALL	
	W-L	%	W-L	%
Ohio State	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Minnesota	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Illinois	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Nebraska	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Penn State	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Iowa	0-0	.000	0-0	.000
Michigan	0-0	.000	0-0	.000

Listed by Big Ten Preseason Poll

BIG TEN WEEKLY AWARDS:

Jan. 15

G: --
F: --

Jan. 22

G: --
F: --

Jan. 29

G: --
F: --

Feb. 5

G: --
F: --

Feb. 12

G: --
F: --

Feb. 19

G: --
F: --

Feb. 26

G: --
F: --

Mar. 5

G: --
F: --

Mar. 12

G: --
F: --

Mar. 19

G: --
F: --

Mar. 26

G: --
F: --

G - Gymnast; F - Freshman

PENN STATE COMES IN SEVENTH IN THE CGA PRESEASON COACHES' POLL

The Penn State men's gymnastics team enters the 2018 campaign ranked seventh in the College Gymnastics Association (CGA) Preseason Coaches' Poll as announced Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Oklahoma was picked to finish first in the nation for the fourth-straight season with 14 first-place votes, while Stanford was picked to finish second with one first-place vote and Ohio State was projected to round out the top three with two first-place votes. Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska ranked fourth, fifth, and sixth, respectively with Penn State coming in as the No. 7 team to start the 2018 season.

NITTANY LIONS SET TO APPEAR ON BTN TWO TIMES

The Penn State men's gymnastics team will have one away meet featured on the Big Ten Network, while the network will also air the 2018 Big Ten Championships. The Nittany Lions and the Wolverines of Michigan will square off at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24 on BTN in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The 2018 Men's Big Ten Championships will be hosted by Michigan in Ann Arbor Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7. The team championship will be handed out on Friday, while individual event winners will be crowned April 7. Both sessions will be aired live on BTN starting at 7 p.m.

JEPSON KICKS OFF 27TH SEASON AT THE HELM OF MEN'S GYMNASTICS

The 2018 campaign marks the 27th season for head coach **Randy Jepson** as the program leader of the Nittany Lions. Jepson came to Penn State in 1982 as a senior gymnast, earning All-America honors on the rings and being a Nissen-Emery Award nominee. From there, he went on to be the graduate assistant for two seasons before becoming an assistant coach from 1985-1991. In 1992, Jepson served as the acting head coach and was promoted to head coach in 1993 and since has led the Nittany Lions to three national championships and three Big Ten titles.

Jepson has been the National Coach of the Year on three occasions (2000, 2004 and 2007) and garnered the prestigious CGA Honor Coach Award in 2011, which is given to the coaches who have 25 years of service or more to the sport of gymnastics. Additionally, Jepson is a two-time Big Ten Coach of the Year honoree and has coached 45 All-Americans on 103 occasions, 30 First Team All-Big Ten selection and 12 NCAA Individual Event Champions.

NEDOROSCIK RETURNS AFTER STANDOUT FRESHMAN SEASON

Sophomore **Stephen Nedoroscik** won the 2017 national championship on the pommel horse with a career-best 14.900 to become the 54th individual NCAA National Champion. Furthermore, the then-freshman pommel horse specialist is the third freshman to capture an individual NCAA event title in the last five years and only the fourth-ever Penn State men's gymnast to earn an individual event title. Nedoroscik joins the company of **Mark Sohn** (1988 pommel horse), **Trevor Howard** (2013 floor exercise) and **Thad Lawson** (2015 floor exercise) as the only four Penn State freshman men's gymnasts to earn individual event titles.

ZAKUTNEY LOOKING FOR BIG SOPHOMORE SEASON

Sophomore **Sam Zakutney** notched All-American honors with a fifth-place finish on the parallel bars in his first season donning the Blue and White. Zakutney was also named Big Ten Conference Freshman of the Year after earning four Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors in the 2017 season.

2017 RANKINGS

(REGULAR SEASON)

TEAM RANKINGS**Team Score**

6	Penn State	411.675
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>420.400</i>

Floor

8	Penn State	68.385
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>70.650</i>

Pommel Horse

3	Penn State	68.700
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>72.350</i>

Still Rings

5	Penn State	68.865
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>70.500</i>

Vault

9	Penn State	70.470
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>71.900</i>

Parallel Bars

4	Penn State	69.110
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>70.950</i>

High Bar

8	Penn State	66.145
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>68.350</i>

INDIVIDUAL RANKINGS (Top 20 - returners)**All-Around**

8	Sam Zakutney	80.700
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>83.150</i>

Floor

19	Wyatt Tyndall	13.866
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>14.550</i>

Pommel Horse

8	Stephen Nedoroscik	13.932
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>14.800</i>
17	Colin Coates	13.586
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>14.700</i>

Parallel Bars

9	Sam Zakutney	14.157
	<i>Season High Score</i>	<i>14.900</i>

*(2017 Road To Nationals Rankings)***11 NITTANY LIONS COLLECT CGA ALL-AMERICA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONORS**

Eleven Penn State men's gymnastics student-athletes earned College Gymnastics Association (CGA) Academic All-American Scholar-Athlete honors, while the 2017 team ranked in the top 10 with a 3.284 team grade point average in the 2016-17 academic year.

Eight Nittany Lions earned first team All-American Scholar-Athlete honors with redshirt-sophomore **Noah Roberson** leading the way with a 4.0 grade point average. Roberson was the 2017 Elite 90 recipient for men's gymnastics as a double major in biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering. Also earning first team honors for the Blue and White were **Chris Sands** (3.99-3.90 GPA), **Wyatt Tyndall** (3.89-3.80), **Brayden Borromeo** (3.799-3.70), **Michael Burns** (3.799-3.70), **Alex Thomason** (3.79-3.70), **Benjamin Cooperman** (3.699-3.60) and **Franz Card** (3.599-3.50).

Along with the seven first team honorees, three Nittany Lions notched second team honors, including **Joseph Boyle** (3.399-3.30), **Dominic DiFulvio** (3.399-3.30) and **Stephen Nedoroscik** (3.299-3.20).

As a team, Penn State ranked fifth in the nation with a 3.284 team grade point average, while Big Ten foe Nebraska led the way with a 3.505 team GPA.

Since the inception of the award in 1991, the Nittany Lions have received 76 first team All-American Scholar-Athlete honors and 46 second team All-American Scholar-Athlete honors. Penn State's 76 first team honorees rank 13th all-time amongst NCAA gymnastics teams.

TICKET INFORMATION

For information on purchasing 2018 season tickets fans can visit <http://www.Go-PSUsports.com/tickets> or call 1-800-NITTANY weekdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Penn State will host its first home meet of the 2018 season Saturday, Jan. 20 against Army West Point. The dual is slated to start at 4 p.m. at Rec Hall.

NEXT UP

The Nittany Lions open their 2018 home slate Saturday, Jan. 20 against Army West Point. Penn State and Army square off at 4 p.m. at Rec Hall.

2018 TV / RADIO ROSTER



JACK BALDWIN
Fr. • PH • 5-10
Mexico, N.Y.



LUKE BELVEDERE
R-Fr. • VT • 5-6
Katy, Texas



BRAYDEN BORROMEO
So. • FX/SR/VT • 5-6
Littlestown, Pa.



MICHAEL BURNS
Jr. • PH/SR/PB/HB • 5-9
Baltimore, Ohio



PARKER CLAYTON
Fr. • AA • 5-5
Fishers, Ind.



COLIN COATES
Sr. • PH • 5-8
Emmaus, Pa.



BENJAMIN COOPERMAN
Sr. • PH/SR • 5-7
Southborough, Mass.



ALEX FRACK
Fr. • AA • 5-4
Nazareth, Pa.



ZACHARY GEISELMAN
Fr. • PH • 6-0
York, Pa.



ISAAC HAMMETT
So. • SR • 5-4
Sacramento, Calif.



QUEST HAYDEN
Sr. • AA • 5-9
Harrisburg, Pa.



STEPHEN NEDOROSCIK
So. • PH • 5-5
Worcester, Mass.



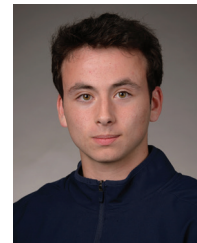
MICHAEL PEPE-LAGE
Fr. • SR/VT/PB/HB • 5-5
Middletown, N.J.



NOAH ROBerson
R-Jr. • SR • 5-4
Williamsville, N.Y.



CHRIS SANDS
Jr. • FX/SR/VT/B/HB • 5-10
Lancaster, Pa.



BENJAMIN SKY
Fr. • FX/SR/VT • 5-2
Concord, N.H.



JOSHUA SMITH
Jr. • FX/VT • 5-5
Baton Rouge, La.



GREG TAMARGO
Jr. • FX/SR/VT • 5-8
Kennett Square, Pa.



ALEX THOMASON
R-So. • FX/VT/PB/HB • 5-5
Houston, Texas



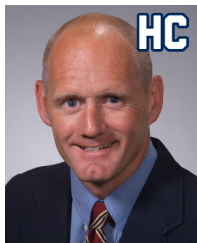
WYATT TYNDALL
Jr. • AA • 5-6
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



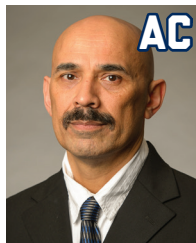
FAVIAN VALDEZ
So. • AA • 5-6
Kearny, N.J.



SAM ZAKUTNEY
So. • AA • 5-6
Ottawa, Ontario



RANDY JEPSON
Head Coach
27th Season



CARLOS VASQUEZ
Assistant Coach
Sixth Season



TONY BECK
Assistant Coach
Third Season