

PENN STATE BASEBALL

5 College World Series Appearances 19 NCAA Tournament Appearances 1 Big Ten Championship

2019 GAME NOTES/#1-3

PENNSTATEBASEBALL/@PENNSTATEBASE/GOPSUSPORTS.COM

SCHEDULE/RESULTS

O-O OVERALL/O-O BIG TEN
FEBRUARY (0-0)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME/RES.	TV/STR.
Fri. 15	vs. Monmouth ¹	2 p.m.	
Sat. 16	vs. Monmouth ¹	1 p.m.	
Sun. 17	vs. Monmouth ¹	11 a.m.	
Fri. 22	vs. Fairfield ¹	2 p.m.	
Sat. 23	vs. Fairfield ¹	noon	
Sat. 23	vs. Fairfield ¹	-	
Sun. 24	vs. Fairfield ¹	11 a.m.	

MARCH (0-0)

Fri. 1	vs. Duke ²	4 p.m.	
Sat. 2	vs. Duke ²	2 p.m.	
Sun. 3	vs. Duke ²	noon	
Fri. 8	at UCF	6 p.m.	
Sat. 9	at UCF	6 p.m.	
Sun. 10	at UCF	1 p.m.	
Tue. 12	at Pittsburgh	3 p.m.	
FRI. 15	UMASS LOWELL	4 P.M.	
SAT. 16	UMASS LOWELL	NOON	
SAT. 16	UMASS LOWELL	-	
SUN. 17	UMASS LOWELL	NOON	
FRI. 22	MINNESOTA *	4 P.M.	
SAT. 23	MINNESOTA *	1 P.M.	
SUN. 24	MINNESOTA *	NOON	
TUE. 26	BINGHAMTON	6:30 P.M.	
Fri. 29	at Purdue *	6 p.m.	
Sat. 30	at Purdue *	1 p.m.	
Sun. 31	at Purdue *	1 p.m.	

APRIL (0-0)

TUE. 2	BUCKNELL	6:30 P.M.	
WED. 3	ST. BONAVENTURE	6:30 P.M.	
Fri. 5	at Indiana *	6:05 p.m.	
Sat. 6	at Indiana *	2:05 p.m.	
Sun. 7	at Indiana *	1:05 p.m.	
TUE. 9	YOUNGSTOWN STATE	6:30 P.M.	
WED.10	PITTSBURGH	6:30 P.M.	
FRI. 12	NEBRASKA *	6:30 P.M.	
SAT. 13	NEBRASKA *	6 P.M.	
SUN. 14	NEBRASKA *	NOON	
WED.17	WEST VIRGINIA	6:30 P.M.	
Fri. 19	at Illinois *	7 p.m.	
Sat. 20	at Illinois *	4 p.m.	
Sun. 21	at Illinois *	2 p.m.	
Tue. 23	at West Virginia	7 p.m.	
WED.24	LAFAYETTE	6:30 P.M.	
FRI. 26	MARYLAND *	6:30 P.M.	
SAT. 27	MARYLAND *	2 P.M.	
SUN. 28	MARYLAND *	1 P.M.	

MAY (0-0)

FRI. 3	RUTGERS *	6:30 P.M.	
SAT. 4	RUTGERS *	2 P.M.	
SUN. 5	RUTGERS *	1 P.M.	
WED. 8	TOWSON	6:30 P.M.	
Fri. 10	at Ohio State *	6:35 p.m.	
Sat. 11	at Ohio State *	3:05 p.m.	
Sun. 12	at Ohio State *	1:05 p.m.	
TUE. 14	MOUNT ST. MARY'S	6:30 P.M.	
THUR.16	ARIZONA	6:30 P.M.	
FRI. 17	ARIZONA	6:30 P.M.	
SAT. 18	ARIZONA	2 P.M.	
Wed.-Sun.22-26	Big Ten Tournament ³	TBD	

All times Eastern and subject to change

HOME GAMES | * Big Ten game

- 1 - USA Baseball National Training Center - Cary, N.C.
- 2 - IMG Academy - Bradenton, Fla.
- 3 - TD Ameritrade Park - Omaha, Neb.

PENN STATE (0-0, 0-0 BIG) VS. MONMOUTH (0-0, 0-0 MAAC)



Friday, Feb. 15 - 2 p.m.
 Saturday, Feb. 16 - 1 p.m.
 Sunday, Feb. 17 - 11 a.m.



CARY, N.C.

USA BASEBALL NATIONAL TRAINING COMPLEX

COMPARISON

	PSU	MON
Overall	15-34	30-25
Conference	3-21	16-7
Avg.	.233	.267
OBP	.332	.366
Runs	223	337
Hits	379	491
2B	79	99
3B	17	14
HR	21	34
RBI	203	309
SB-ATT	47-60	35-53
Errors	69	55
Fielding Pct.	.960	.972
ERA	5.53	4.75
K	390	386
BB	231	189
Opp BA	.272	.268

ESSENTIALS

Live Video:.....N/A
Live Audio:.....N/A
Live Stats:.....GoPSUsports.com
TV:.....N/A
Radio:.....N/A

Series History:.....Monmouth, 3-1
Last Game:.....Monmouth, 9-8 (2018)
Streak:.....L3

Friday Probables

PSU.....LHP Dante Biasi (3-6, 5.20 ERA)
 MON.....RHP Dan Klepckich (5-1, 3.47 ERA)

Saturday Probables

PSU.....RHP Bailey Dees (1-2, 5.14 ERA)
 MON.....RHP James Kelly (1-0, 3.03 ERA)

Sunday Probables

PSU.....RHP Eric Mock (2-1, 5.97 ERA)
 MON.....TBD

STORYLINES

Up to Bat

Penn State opens its 2019 baseball season with a three-game series against Monmouth beginning Friday at 2 p.m. at the USA Baseball National Training Center in Cary, North Carolina. The series continues Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

The Team

- Penn State is carrying the NCAA maximum 35 student-athletes on its roster, which includes 23 returners and 12 newcomers.
- Returning starting position players include: C **Ryan Sloniger**, C/IF **Shea Sbranti**, IF **Conlin Hughes**, IF **Parker Hendershot**, IF **Connor Klemann**, OF **Jordan Bowersox** and OF **Curtis Robison**.
- LHP **Dante Biasi** returns to the weekend rotation after starting last season as a redshirt freshman, while RHP **Bailey Dees** and RHP **Eric Mock** both made four starts each last season.
- Newcomers include five transfers and seven freshmen.
- Penn State is a sophomore heavy team with 15 student-athletes in their second year of eligibility.

Season Openers

- The Nittany Lions are 2-3 in season starts during head coach Rob Cooper's tenure.
- Last season, Penn State swept Elon to open 2018.
- This is the fifth time in the past six seasons that Penn State has opened its season in the state of North Carolina.

Road Swing Begins

- Penn State is playing its first 14 games of the season on the road.
- Penn State is going to be the home team for the first 10 though, hosting Monmouth (Feb. 15-17) and Fairfield (Feb. 22-24) at neutral sites for the first seven (USA Baseball National Training Center - Cary, N.C.) and Duke (Mar. 1-3) at the IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida.
- The Duke series opens a six-game spring break trip in Florida. Penn State rounds out the trip with its first true road games, playing three games at UCF in Orlando.
- The Nittany Lions return to the Keystone State Mar. 12 at Pittsburgh.

Tight Games

- Small improvements could lead to a big improvement in Penn State's overall record, as it went 5-13 in 18 one-run games last season.
- Penn State had the third-highest percentage of games decided by one run in Division I baseball last season at 36.7 percent (18-of-49). Only William & Mary (42.6 percent) and Virginia (37.0 percent) had higher percentages.
- Penn State's 18 one-run games were its most since playing in a program-record 19 one-run games in 2006.

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	B/T	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/High School/Last College
2	Conlin Hughes	IF	R/R	Sr.	5-10	185	Holly Springs, N.C. / Holly Springs
3	Cole Bartels	RHP	R/R	R-So.	6-3	195	Belmont, Mass. / Belmont
4	Connor Klemann	IF	R/R	R-Jr.	5-10	185	Royersford, Pa. / Spring-Ford
5	Tommy Gibson	IF	R/R	So.	5-10	175	Williamstown, N.J. / Williamstown
6	Ralph Gambino	RHP	R/R	R-Fr.	5-10	185	Freehold, N.J. / Freehold Township
7	Isaiah Payton	IF	R/R	Fr.	6-1	195	Newark, Del. / The Episcopal Academy
9	Parker Hendershot	IF	R/R	So.	6-2	210	Barton, N.Y. / Tioga Central
10	Brendan Mullins	RHP	R/R	Fr.	6-4	180	Myrtle Beach, S.C. / Toms River North
11	Ryan Sloniger	C/IF	L/R	Sr.	5-11	200	Punxsutawney, Pa. / Punxsutawney Area
12	Eric Mock	RHP	R/R	R-Jr.	6-2	220	Shillington, Pa. / Governor Mifflin
13	Jordan Bowersox	OF	R/R	Sr.	5-10	180	Winter Springs, Fla. / Winter Springs
14	Mac Hippenhammer	OF	S/R	So.	5-11	177	Fort Wayne, Ind. / R. Nelson Snider
15	Austin Riggins	OF	R/R	Sr.	6-0	180	Greer, S.C. / Riverside
17	Curtis Robison	OF/IF	L/L	So.	6-2	225	Dillsburg, Pa. / Northern York
18	Mason Mellott	RHP	R/R	So.	6-0	190	State College, Pa. / State College Area
20	Mason Nadeau	OF	L/R	Jr.	5-10	175	Lansdale, Pa. / North Penn
21	Jeff Taylor	LHP	L/L	So.	6-2	195	Lancaster, Pa. / Penn Manor
22	Derek Orndorff	UTIL	R/R	So.	6-0	200	Mill Run, Pa. / Connellsville Area
23	Kris Kremer	IF	R/R	So.	5-10	166	Hershey, Pa. / Hershey
24	Joe Gunn	OF	L/L	Jr.	5-11	205	New Castle, Pa. / Union Area / St. Johns River State
25	Conor Larkin	RHP	R/R	So.	6-1	215	Royersford, Pa. / Spring-Ford Area
27	Shea Sbranti	C/IF	L/R	Sr.	6-0	210	Oakley, Calif. / Freedom / San Joaquin Delta
28	Hutch Gagnon	LHP	L/L	Fr.	6-2	200	Downingtown, Pa. / Downingtown East
31	Dylan Gargas	RHP	R/R	So.	6-5	220	San Diego, Calif. / Canyon Crest Academy / Grossmont College
33	Justin Williams	IF	R/R	Fr.	6-2	200	Mechanicsburg, Pa. / Cumberland Valley
34	Ryan Ford	IF	L/R	Fr.	6-2	190	Freehold, N.J. / Freehold Township
36	Tyler Shingledecker	LHP	R/L	Fr.	6-3	175	Huntersville, N.C. / Hough
37	Steven Miller	RHP	R/R	Fr.	6-1	185	Pittsburgh, Pa. / North Hills
38	Dante Biasi	LHP	L/L	R-So.	6-0	205	Hazle Township, Pa. / Hazleton Area
39	Jacob Padilla	C/IF	R/R	Jr.	5-11	223	Wylie, Texas / Wylie East / Murray State College
40	Gavin Homer	IF	R/R	Jr.	5-9	180	Battle Creek, Mich. / Lakeview / Kellogg C.C.
41	Blake Hodgens	LHP	L/L	Sr.	6-1	190	Tampa, Fla. / Gaither
42	Kyle Virbitsky	RHP	R/R	So.	6-6	235	Media, Pa. / Episcopal Academy
44	Bailey Dees	RHP	R/R	So.	6-7	240	Charlotte, N.C. / Hough
49	Jared Freilich	RHP	R/R	R-So.	6-6	235	Worcester, Mass. / Williston Northhampton / Polk State College

Coaches/ Staff

16	Rob Cooper	Head Coach	Sixth Season (Miami [Fla.], 1994)
45	Josh Newman	Assistant Coach, Pitching	Second Season (Ohio State, 2004)
1	Andre Butler	Assistant Coach, Hitting	Fourth Season (Eastern, 2012)
26	Dallas Burke	Volunteer Assistant Coach	First Season (Missouri Southern State, 2013)
	Austin Urban	Student Assistant Coach	First Season (Penn State, 2021)
	Jason Bradford	Performance Enhancement Coach	Third Season (Auburn, 2002)
	Sean Moore	Director of Operations/Player Development	First Season (Iowa, 2015)
	Ben Kmetz	Athletic Trainer	Second Season (Northern Arizona, 2015)

ALPHABETICAL

3	Cole Bartels
38	Dante Biasi
13	Jordan Bowersox
44	Bailey Dees
34	Ryan Ford
49	Jared Freilich
28	Hutch Gagnon
6	Ralph Gambino
31	Dylan Gargas
5	Tommy Gibson
24	Joe Gunn
9	Parker Hendershot
14	Mac Hippenhammer
41	Blake Hodgens
40	Gavin Homer
2	Conlin Hughes
4	Connor Klemann
23	Kris Kremer
25	Conor Larkin
18	Mason Mellott
37	Steven Miller
12	Eric Mock
10	Brendan Mullins
20	Mason Nadeau
22	Derek Orndorff
39	Jacob Padilla
7	Isaiah Payton
15	Austin Riggins
17	Curtis Robison
27	Shea Sbranti
36	Tyler Shingledecker
11	Ryan Sloniger
21	Jeff Taylor
42	Kyle Virbitsky
33	Justin Williams

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

38	Dante Biasi	bee-AH-zee
49	Jared Freilich	FRY-lick
28	Hutch Gagnon	GAG-nun
31	Dylan Gargas	GAR-gus
4	Connor Klemann	KLEE-mun
37	Kris Kremer	Cramer
18	Mason Mellott	MEL-lot
20	Mason Nadeau	Nay-doh
17	Curtis Robison	ROB-i-son
28	Shea Sbranti	Seh-branti
11	Ryan Sloniger	SLON-i-gur

ROSTER BREAKDOWN BY STATE/PROVINCES

California - 2	New Jersey - 3
Delaware - 1	New York - 1
Florida - 2	North Carolina - 3
Michigan - 1	Texas - 1
Indiana - 1	Pennsylvania - 16
Massachusetts - 2	South Carolina - 2

ROSTER BREAKDOWN BY CLASS

Freshmen - 8
Sophomores - 15
Juniors - 6
Seniors - 6

ROSTER BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

Catchers - 3	Utility - 1
Infielders - 11	Left-Handed Pitchers - 5
Outfielders - 6	Right-Handed Pitchers - 11

QUICK FACTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location	University Park, Pa.
Founded	1855
Enrollment	46,270
Colors	Blue and White
Conference	Big Ten
Nickname	Nittany Lions
President	Eric J. Barron
Director of Athletics	Sandy Barbour

TEAM INFORMATION

2018 Record	15-34
2018 Big Ten Record/Finish	3-21/13th
Postseason	None
Letterwinners Returning/Lost	20/8
Starting Batters Returning/Lost	7/2
Starting Pitchers Returning/Lost	1/2
Newcomers	12
All-Time Record (Years)	2,023-1,459-21 (130)
All-Time Big Ten Record (Years)	318-407 (27)
NCAA Tournament Appearances	19
NCAA Tournament Record	25-24
NCAA Super Regional Appearances	1
College World Series Appearances	5
.....(1952, 1957, 1959, 1963, 1973)	
Best CWS Finish	Second (1957)
Last NCAA Tournament Appearance	2000

BASEBALL STAFF

Head Coach	Rob Cooper
PSU Record (Years)	97-160 (5)
Career Record (Years)	383-390 (14)
Assistant Coaches	Josh Newman (Pitching)
.....	Andre Butler (Hitting/Outfield)
Volunteer Asst. Coach	Dallas Burke (Hitting/Catchers)
Student Asst. Coach	Austin Urban (Pitching)
Director of Operations	Sean Moore
Performance Enhancement	Jason Bradford
Athletic Trainer	Ben Kmetz

STADIUM INFORMATION

Home Stadium	Medlar Field at Lubrano Park
First Season	2007
All-Time Record	150-111 (.575)
Capacity	5,406
Dimensions	325-399-320
Press Box Phone	(814) 441-9145

MEDIA RELATIONS INFORMATION

Baseball Contact	Mark Brumbaugh
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Facebook Page	facebook.com/pennstatebaseball

Program Notes

First Varsity Sport

Baseball was Penn State's first varsity sport, playing its first games in 1875.

Five College World Series Appearances

Penn State has made five trips to the College World Series, placing as high as second in 1957. The Nittany Lions reached the CWS in 1952, 1957, 1959, 1963 and 1973. Penn State has reached the NCAA Tournament 19 times.

1996 Big Ten Champions

The 2016 season marked the 20th anniversary of Penn State's first Big Ten Championship.

Nittany Lions in Cuba

Penn State participated in a weeklong, four-game tour of Cuba, Nov. 21-28, 2015. The Nittany Lions went 1-3 in the "Cuba Baseball Friendship Tournament." The Lions played against teams from Cuba's top "professional" league, the National Series, becoming the first United States team to play multiple teams from the league and the first to earn a victory.

The team also participated in lectures about Cuban baseball, Jose Marti and the history of Cuban sports and U.S. relations.

Penn State first played Industriales in Havana's Estadio Latinoamericano, falling 2-1. With the game, Penn State became the first NCAA Division I team to compete against a Cuban National Series team, the first U.S. baseball team to play in Cuba since restoration of diplomatic ties with Cuba, the second NCAA team to play in Cuba since restoration of diplomatic ties (Coastal Carolina men's basketball, August 2015) and the fifth NCAA Division I baseball team to compete in post-revolutionary Cuba.

Penn State next played Ciego de Avila, the league's defending champion. Starting pitcher Victor Garcia had pitched for Cuba in the 2009 World Baseball Classic, and the Lions were defeated, 2-0.

Penn State earned the first victory for a United States team at any level over a Cuban National Series team in game three, defeating Mayabeque, 9-3.

Nittany Lions in the Pros

According to Baseball-Almanac.com, 27 Nittany Lions have gone on to play Major League Baseball. A total of 76 have been drafted.

Five Nittany Lions are in Major League organizations. Two 2016 draft picks are entering their fourth pro seasons: Pitcher Jack Anderson is in the Seattle Mariners organization and infielder Jim Haley is in the Tampa Bay Rays organization. A 2017 draft pick, pitcher Sal Biasi, is entering his third season and is with the Milwaukee Brewers organization. Justin Hagenman, who was tabbed by the Los Angeles Dodgers last June, enters his second season, while free agent signee pitcher Taylor Lehman does the same with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Did you know?

O.J. McDuffie is mostly known for his stellar career on the gridiron for Penn State and in the NFL, but he also played baseball in 1990. He stole 20 bases (1-3rd, single season-school history) on 21 attempts (96 percent clip), hit .336 and had a .969 fielding percentage. He was drafted by the California Angels in the 41st round of the 1991 MLB June Amateur Draft.

Medlar Field at Lubrano Park

Situated in the shadow of Beaver Stadium, the facility -- completed in June of 2006 -- is arguably one of the premier collegiate stadiums in the country.

The ballpark's signature is the breathtaking view of legendary Mt. Nittany, a local landmark that is near and dear to the heart of every Penn Stater. With the stadium opening to the east, spectators can peer unencumbered down the Nittany Valley for miles and on a clear day Tussey Mountain Ski Resort can be seen from 10 miles away.

Seating capacity for Medlar Field is 5,406 and 20 luxury suites allow area companies to treat clients and friends to an unmatched baseball experience. A party deck along the right field line provides a good place for friends to gather and the picnic pavilion beyond the left field fence is perfect for birthday parties and group outings.

Much like the rest of the park, the dimensions of the playing field are unique as well. A relatively short 325 feet to the left field pole stretches out to the deepest part of the park, the 410 foot nook in left center field. Straightaway center is 399 feet and the 320 foot right field fence is made more daunting with an 18.55 feet high wall, which commemorates the year Penn State was founded.

A 2,500 square foot press box can accommodate traveling and local media and has private broadcast booths for up to three radio teams. A large video scoreboard towers above the left field wall capable of providing up to the minute stats and video replays.

The stadium is named for 1982 Penn State graduate Anthony Lubrano and former Nittany Lion Head Coach Charles "Chuck" Medlar. Lubrano chose to honor Coach Medlar with a generous financial gift toward the realization of the long-discussed project. Coach Medlar served at the helm of the Penn State program for 19 years and guided the Lions to two College World Series appearances.

Team No. 131

Penn State is playing its 131st baseball season in program history.

SERIES NOTES

All-Time vs. Monmouth

Monmouth holds a 3-1 lead in the all-time series against the Nittany Lions. All games between these two teams have been played at a neutral site. This is the third time in the last four seasons that these two teams have met in Cary. Last season, Penn State had an 8-4 lead heading into the 9th inning, but the Hawks rallied late and scored five runs in the top of the 9th. The all-time series dates back to 2005.

Head Coach Dean Eehalt

Dean Eehalt has been at the helm of Monmouth baseball program for the last 26 years. He has over 600 career wins and is the all-time winningest coach in Monmouth Division I history. He has posted 18 20-plus win seasons, six 30-plus win seasons and won eight regular season conference titles.

Scouting Monmouth

Monmouth and Canisius tied for first in the 2019 MAAC Preseason Coaches Poll. The Hawks are the defending MAAC regular season champions and return the conference rookie of the year, P Dan Klepchick, who posted a 5-1 record with a 3.47 ERA and 78 strikeouts last season. Klepchick and on of Monmouth's top returning hitters, Kyle Norman, were both named to the All-MAAC second team in 2018. Norman batted .298 with 18 extra-base hits.

SERIES HISTORY

(Monmouth, 3-1)

At Monmouth	0-0
At Penn State	0-0
At Neutral Site	1-3

Game-By-Game

2/24/18	N	L, 8-9
2/19/16	N	L, 1-3
3/10/08	N	L, 7-9
3/7/05	N	W, 6-3



Rob
COOPER

Sixth Year
Miami (Fl.), 1994

Head Coach

The 2019 baseball season will be Rob Cooper's sixth as head coach of the Nittany Lion baseball program. Cooper was selected as the 14th head baseball coach in Penn State history on August 9, 2013. Not shy about stating his ultimate goal of returning Penn State to Omaha in June, the Lions have made significant strides under his leadership.

Program highlights under his guidance include four players drafted and five total signed by MLB teams in the last three seasons, ending a three-year drought, and the winningest season since 2012. However, his strong belief in the first part of the term "student-athlete" is perhaps the top reason he has proven to be an excellent fit at Penn State. Even with state-of-the-art facilities, the chance to take on elite competition and a program history that includes five trips to the College World Series, Cooper cites the value of a Penn State degree as one of the top reasons to play baseball at Penn State.

In 2018, Justin Hagenman joined Sal Biasi, Jim Haley and Jack Anderson as recent Nittany Lion draft selections, while fellow pitcher and Cooper's first Penn State signee, Taylor Lehman, signed as a free agent with the Phillies. Hagenman was selected by the Dodgers in the 23rd round with the 704th overall pick, becoming the third Penn State pitcher to be drafted in the past three years, joining Royals' 2017 selection Biasi (11th round) and Mariners' 2016 selection Anderson (23rd round). Before Anderson's selection in 2016, just one Penn State pitcher had been taken in the previous six years (Joe Kurrasch, 2012, 8th round, Giants). Biasi was also the highest Nittany Lion pick overall in five years. A member of Cooper's first full recruiting class, Biasi led Penn State during the 2017 season, earning All-Big Ten second team honors following a career year with 88 strikeouts – the most by a Nittany Lion pitcher since 2009 and tied for the ninth-most in a single season at Penn State.

Hagenman is the 11th player to be drafted during Cooper's career as a head coach and the fourth in his tenure at Penn State. During a successful nine-year stint as the head coach at Wright State, seven of the players were drafted, including eventual Major Leaguer Joe Smith, and 12 more signed professional free agent contracts. Haley played all three seasons at Penn State under Cooper, while Anderson dramatically improved over his final three seasons to become Penn State's all-time leader in appearances and saves.

Penn State baseball's trip to Cuba prior to the 2016 season is perhaps the best example of Cooper's commitment to the first part of the "student-athlete" term. The Nittany Lions attended academic lectures and toured Havana, becoming the first NCAA Division I team to compete against a Cuban National Series team, the first U.S. team at any level to defeat a Cuban National Series team, the first U.S. baseball team to play in Cuba since restoration of diplomatic ties with Cuba, the second NCAA team to play in Cuba since restoration of diplomatic ties (Coastal Carolina men's basketball, August 2015) and the fifth NCAA Division I baseball team to compete in post-revolutionary Cuba. The harmony between academics and athletics was on full display, as multiple Penn State professors and a group of journalism students also joined the travel party.

The rare, once-in-a-lifetime experience helped bring a young Penn State team together, and the Lions went on to earn their first winning record (overall and conference) since 2012. The starting lineup included at least three freshmen in all but six games and five to six freshmen in 19 games, and took on nine eventual NCAA Tournament teams, including a three-game series at home against College World Series participant TCU. The Lions' 28 wins were a 10-win improvement over the previous season, and its 12 Big Ten wins doubled the 2015 total. The season ended with a 12-inning, walk-off victory. Haley and Anderson were the first drafted out of Penn State since 2012, and Anderson and senior outfielder Greg Guers became the program's first All-Big Ten picks also since 2012. Hagenman became Penn State's first Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American since 1997.

In his five seasons at Penn State, Cooper's student-athletes have earned Academic All-Big Ten honors 49 times, including

Anderson, who in 2016 became the first Nittany Lion in six years to be named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District team. As a military history buff, Cooper's speeches to the team often include historical references. He even arranged to have the team visit the headquarters of the Navy SEAL Team VI headquarters and speak with a pair of Navy SEALs – one a Penn State alum – during a travel day on the team's 2015 spring break trip.

The Lions started making gains during his second season in Happy Valley in 2015. Penn State totaled 18 wins against a schedule ranking in the bottom third nationally during his inaugural campaign in 2014, but rose to the challenge the following season, matching the previous season's 18 wins despite playing a schedule that ranked in the upper third in difficulty and involved 10 games against Top 25 opponents. The Nittany Lions rallied from a 7-0 deficit against No. 21 Indiana for their first win over a ranked opponent in three seasons and gave eighth-ranked Illinois its biggest scare during its record winning streak, battling for 15 innings. Penn State ultimately won one more conference game than the year before, despite the Big Ten enjoying arguably its most competitive season to date with a league-record five teams earning NCAA Tournament bids.

Shortly after Cooper accepted the PSU head coaching position in 2014, the California native traveled to Taichung, Taiwan to serve as the head coach of USA Baseball's 18U National Team at the IBAF U18 World Cup. Cooper steered Team USA to an 8-1 record in World Cup play, including seven consecutive victories to win the gold medal.

Not long after the triumph in Taiwan, Cooper received one of the highest honors bestowed in the profession, as he was announced as the Rod Dedeaux USA Baseball Coach of the Year. With the honor, Cooper became just the 16th individual in the award's history to receive the accolade, joining the likes of Scott Brosius, Davey Johnson and Tommy Lasorda.

Cooper was also a member of the coaching staff for the 2007 and 2009 USA College National teams. The 2007 team earned a silver medal at the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Fourteen of the 20 players on the 2007 team reached the Major Leagues, including 2013 All-Star Pedro Alvarez. Fourteen of the 22 members of the 2009 team also reached the Major Leagues, including 2015 All-Stars Gerrit Cole and Yasmani Grandall.

Cooper brought an accomplished resume to Penn State that included three NCAA Tournament appearances as a head coach at Wright State and five more at various stops as an assistant coach, including two trips to the College World Series with Miami (Florida). Cooper was twice named the Horizon League Coach of the Year and guided Wright State to three league tournament championships and two regular-season championships after the team suffered six losing seasons in the seven years before his arrival.

Cooper methodically built Wright State into a perennial contender in the Horizon League with seven 30-win seasons, two Horizon League regular-season titles, three Horizon League Tournament crowns and six Horizon League Championship game appearances. In nine seasons starting in 2005, Cooper accumulated a 286-230 record, including a pair of wins over No. 1-ranked opponents Virginia (3/5/10) and Georgia (3/24/09). He was named the Horizon League Coach of the Year in 2010 and 2011.

Cooper guided 47 players to all-conference accolades and 18 to all-newcomer honors. He also produced five Horizon League Players of the Year, one Pitcher of the Year, three Relief Pitchers of the Year and two Newcomers of the Year.

The 2011 season saw Cooper record his 200th coaching victory and earn the Horizon League Coach of the Year award for the second consecutive year. The Raiders won their second-

THE COOPER FILE

B.A. Miami University
In Sixth Season as Penn State's Head Coach
In 13th Season as a Head Coach at the Collegiate Level
Three NCAA Tournament Appearances
Four Horizon League Championships
One Gold Medal with USA Baseball
Rod Dedeaux USA Baseball Coach of the Year

School	Year	Overall	Win%	Conference	Win%
Wright State	2005	26-33	.441	11-9 Horizon	.550
Wright State	2006	32-27	.593	17-13 Horizon	.567
Wright State	2007	36-22	.621	21-9 Horizon	.700
Wright State	2008	30-23	.566	16-6 Horizon	.727
Wright State	2009	33-30	.524	14-12 Horizon	.538
Wright State	2010	31-25	.554	17-6 Horizon	.739
Wright State	2011	36-19	.655	16-7 Horizon	.696
Wright State	2012	37-21	.638	20-10 Horizon	.667
Wright State	2013	25-30	.455	9-12 Horizon	.429
Penn State	2014	18-32	.360	5-18 Big Ten	.217
Penn State	2015	18-30	.375	6-16 Big Ten	.273
Penn State	2016	28-27	.599	12-12 Big Ten	.500
Penn State	2017	18-37	.327	4-20 Big Ten	.167
Penn State	2018	15-34	.306	3-21 Big Ten	.125
Penn State	5 Seasons	97-160	.377	30-87 Big Ten	.256
Career	14 Seasons	383-390	.495	171-171	.500

straight Horizon League regular season title with a 16-7 record, claimed the league tournament crown by winning three-straight games and advanced to the NCAA Regionals in College Station, Texas. In 2010, the Raiders won the Horizon League regular-season title with a mark of 17-6, the first regular-season conference crown for the program since the 1997 squad won the Midwestern Collegiate Conference title. The 2009 Wright State Raiders compiled a 33-30 overall record and returned to the NCAA Tournament following a Horizon League Tournament championship.

At season's end in 2008, Cooper watched as a school and Horizon League-record three players were drafted during the 2008 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft. In 2007, Wright State enjoyed one of the most prolific offensive seasons in school history as it broke three career records and 11 single-season school records. Ross Oeder, a former assistant coach on Cooper's staff, was named the Horizon League Player of the Year and garnered second-team All-America Honors. The 2006 edition of the Raiders set six school records and posted the most season wins in five years. Cooper's squad defeated nationally-ranked TCU on the road, topped national-powerhouse Notre Dame in South Bend and was on the brink of an upset against eventual National Champion Oregon State in the NCAA Corvallis Regional.

Before arriving at Wright State, Cooper served as the hitting coach, recruiting coordinator and bench coach at Oral Roberts University. A perennial power of the Mid-Continent Conference (now Summit League), ORU advanced to the finals of the NCAA Austin Regional in 2004, beating TCU twice before falling to Texas, 7-3 and 7-5. The Golden Eagles finished with an overall mark of 50-11 in 2004 and had five players selected in the Major League Baseball draft, two honored as All-Americans by the ABCA and three named All-Americans by the College Baseball Insiders website.

Cooper began his coaching career at national power Miami, spending two seasons (1994-95) as a student/graduate assistant on the Hurricanes' staff. While at Miami, Cooper helped the Hurricanes to College World Series berths in 1994 and 1995. Cooper spent the 1996 season as an assistant and team academic coordinator at Wake Forest, then moved on to Tulane for the next two seasons, serving as the Green Wave's hitting coach. In 1997, the Green Wave won the Conference USA regular-season crown, and in 1998, they advanced to the NCAA Tournament. Cooper left Tulane following the 1998 season and returned to Sacramento City College, where he starred in the early 1990's before lettering at Miami in 1993.

Along with his college coaching experience, Cooper also was an associate scout for the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1990-92 and has been selected to four coaching stints with USA Baseball in 2000, 2007, 2009 and 2013.

Cooper earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Miami in 1994 and a master's in sports sciences/administration from Miami in 1996. He is married to his wife, Maureen, and has two sons, Jake and Tyson.