

PENN STATE BASEBALL

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

2019 GAME NOTES/#4-8

PENNSTATEBASEBALL/@PENNSTATEBASE/GOPSUSPORTS.COM

SCHEDULE/RESULTS

DATE	3-0 OVERALL/O-0 BIG TEN	OPPONENT	TIME/RES.	TV/STR.
FEBRUARY (3-0)				
Fri. 15	vs. Monmouth ¹		W, 1-0	W1
Sat. 16	vs. Monmouth ¹		W, 7-0	W2
Sun. 17	vs. Monmouth ¹		W, 6-4	W3
Sat. 23	vs. Fairfield ¹		3 p.m.	
Sun. 24	vs. Fairfield ¹		TBD	
Sun. 24	vs. Fairfield ¹		TBD	
Mon. 25	vs. Fairfield ¹		TBD	

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 (3-0, 0-0 BIG) VS. FAIRFIELD (0-0, 0-0 MAAC)



Saturday, Feb. 23 - 3 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 24 (DH) - TBD

Monday, Feb. 25 - TBD

CARY, N.C.

USA BASEBALL NATIONAL TRAINING COMPLEX



COMPARISON

	PSU	FAIR
Overall	3-0	0-0
Conference	0-0	0-0
Avg.	.250	.000
OBP	.364	.000
Runs	14	0
Hits	23	0
2B	3	0
3B	0	0
HR	1	0
RBI	13	0
SB-ATT	3-6	0-0
Errors	4	0
Fielding Pct.	.962	.000
ERA	1.00	0.00
K	27	0
BB	9	0
Opp BA	.085	.000

ESSENTIALS

Live Video:N/A
Live Audio:N/A
Live Stats:GoPSUsports.com
TV:N/A
Radio:N/A
Game 1 Probables	
PSU.....	LHP Dante Biasi (1-0, 0.00 ERA)
FAIR.....	RHP Austin Pope (0-0, 0.00 ERA)
Game 2 Probables	
PSU.....	RHP Bailey Dees (1-0, 0.00 ERA)
FAIR.....	RHP Trey McLaughlin (0-0, 0.00 ERA)
Game 3 Probables	
PSU.....	RHP Eric Mock (1-0, 1.50 ERA)
FAIR.....	RHP Josh Arnold (0-0 0.00 ERA)
Game 4 Probables	
PSU.....TBA
FAIR.....TBA

STORYLINES

Up to Bat

Penn State returns to the USA Baseball National Training Complex for a second-straight weekend, this time hosting Fairfield in a three-day, four-game series. However, the threat of inclement weather forced the series to shift back from its originally scheduled start day, so it is presently scheduled to begin Saturday and conclude Monday. The only tentative time set is for Game 1 to start at 3 p.m. Saturday. Visit GoPSUsports.com or follow @PennStateBASE on Twitter for the latest updates.

Pitching Prowess

- Penn State allowed just eight hits over 27 innings in its first three games, leading the nation in hits per nine-innings (2.67) during Opening Weekend.
- Penn State's pitchers held Monmouth to a nation's best .085 batting average.
- Penn State held Monmouth scoreless for 21.1 innings to open the series.
- The eight hits allowed are Penn State's fewest in a three-game span since at least 2004.
- Penn State earned its first Opening Day shutout since 1977 and first back-to-back season-opening shutouts in program history.

Homer Adapting to New Home

- Junior transfer **Gavin Homer** did not have any issues reaching base in his first NCAA Division I weekend, posting a .636 on-base percentage.
- Homer went 4-for-8 batting with three walks and a double.

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.

Road Swing Underway

- Penn State is playing its first 14 games of the season on the road.
- Penn State is 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.

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) 2026-1459-21 (131)
 All-Time Big Ten Record (Years) 318-407 (28)
 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) 100-160 (6)
 Career Record (Years) 386-390 (15)
 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

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 Facebook Page facebook.com/pennstatebaseball

Big Ten Standings (as of Feb. 21)

	B1G	%	Overall	%	Stk
Ohio State	0-0-0	.000	4-0-0	1.000	W4
Penn State	0-0-0	.000	3-0-0	1.000	W3
Illinois	0-0-0	.000	3-0-0	1.000	W3
Michigan	0-0-0	.000	3-0-0	1.000	W3
Nebraska	0-0-0	.000	3-1-0	.750	W2
Indiana	0-0-0	.000	2-1-0	.667	W1
Iowa	0-0-0	.000	2-1-0	.667	W2
Northwestern	0-0-0	.000	2-2-0	.500	W1
Maryland	0-0-0	.000	1-2-0	.333	W1
Michigan State	0-0-0	.000	1-2-0	.333	L2
Minnesota	0-0-0	.000	1-3-0	.250	L3
Purdue	0-0-0	.000	0-3-0	.000	L3
Rutgers	0-0-0	.000	0-3-0	.000	L3

Top eight teams qualify for Big Ten Tournament

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. Fairfield

This is the first ever meeting between the Nittany Lions and Stags.

Head Coach Bill Currier

Bill Currier enters his eighth season as the head coach of the Stags. During that time he has led the program to their first-ever MAAC Tournament Championship, two regular season titles and three 30-win campaigns. The 2016 season was his best of his 30-year coaching career. During that season, he tied a program record with 32 wins, en-route to Fairfield's first overall MAAC title since 1993 and the first-ever tournament title. For his efforts, Currier was named the MAAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his career.

Scouting Fairfield

Fairfield is opening its 2019 season. The Stags expect to be led by their pitching this season, highlighted by All-MAAC Preseason pick John Signore, who was first-team All-MAAC pick last season. On offense, they are looking to replace their top-three hitters from a year ago. Shortstop Jack Gethings leads the infield as a three-year starter, while first baseman Anthony Boselli returns as the team's leading returning home run hitter.

SERIES HISTORY

(First Meeting)

At Fairfield 0-0

At Penn State 0-0

At Neutral Site 0-0

Game-By-Game



Rob
COOPER

Sixth Year
Miami (Fla.), 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

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	2019	3-0	1.000	0-0 Big Ten	.000
Penn State Career	5 Seasons	100-160	.385	30-87 Big Ten	.256
	14 Seasons	386-390	.497	171-171	.500

for the second consecutive year. The Raiders won their second-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.

2019 Penn State Baseball
Overall Statistics for Penn State (as of Feb 17, 2019)
(All games Sorted by Batting avg)

Record: 3-0 Home: 0-0 Away: 0-0 Neutral: 3-0 Big Ten: 0-0

Player	avg	gp-gs	ab	r	h	2b	3b	hr	rbi	tb	slg%	bb	hp	so	gdp	ob%	sf	sh	sb-att	po	a	e	fld%	
40 Homer, Gavin	.500	3-3	8	1	4	1	0	0	1	5	.625	3	0	1	0	.636	0	0	1-2	6	3	1	.900	
9 Hendershot, Parker	.417	3-3	12	2	5	0	0	0	3	5	.417	0	0	4	0	.417	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000	
13 Bowersox, Jordan	.300	3-3	10	2	3	0	0	0	1	3	.300	1	1	0	0	.417	0	0	0-0	9	0	0	1.000	
2 Hughes, Conlin	.273	3-3	11	0	3	1	0	0	3	4	.364	0	0	4	0	.273	0	0	0-0	2	5	1	.875	
4 Klemann, Connor	.250	3-3	12	2	3	1	0	0	1	4	.333	1	0	5	0	.308	0	1	1-1	2	4	1	.857	
17 Robison, Curtis	.182	3-3	11	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	.455	0	0	3	0	.182	0	0	0-0	7	0	0	1.000	
11 Sloniger, Ryan	.111	3-3	9	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	.111	0	2	2	1	.273	0	0	0-0	18	2	0	1.000	
23 Kremer, Kris	.111	3-3	9	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	.111	5	0	2	0	.429	0	0	1-2	8	0	0	1.000	
27 Sbranti, Shea	.100	3-3	10	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	.100	2	1	2	0	.286	1	0	0-1	26	1	1	.964	

39 Padilla, Jacob	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	1	0	0	0	1.000	0	0	0-0	2	1	0	1.000	
33 Williams, Justin	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000	
22 Orndorff, Derek	.000	1-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	1	0	0	1.000	
20 Nadeau, Mason	.000	1-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	.000	
Totals	.250	3	92	14	23	3	0	1	13	29	.315	13	4	23	1	.364	1	1	3-6	81	19	4	.962	
Opponents	.085	3	94	4	8	1	1	0	1	11	.117	9	3	27	0	.189	0	0	3-3	73	18	4	.958	

LOB - Team (24), Opp (21). DPs turned - Team (0), Opp (1).

(All games Sorted by Earned run avg)

Player	era	w-l	app	gs	cg	sho	sv	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	2b	3b	hr	b/avg	wp	hp	bk	sfa	sha		
18 Mellott, Mason	0.00	1-0	2	0	0	0/1	1	6.0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	.045	0	0	0	0	0		
44 Dees, Bailey	0.00	1-0	1	1	0	0/1	0	6.0	2	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	.100	0	0	0	0	0		
38 Biasi, Dante	0.00	0-0	1	1	0	0/1	0	5.0	3	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	.167	0	1	0	0	0		
36 Shingledecker, Tyler	0.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/1	1	3.0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	.000	0	0	0	0	0		
12 Mock, Eric	1.50	1-0	1	1	0	0/0	0	6.0	1	1	1	2	9	0	0	0	.050	3	0	0	0	0		

49 Freilich, Jared	13.50	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	0.2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	.000	1	1	0	0	0		
28 Gagnon, Hutch	27.00	0-0	1	0	0	0/0	0	0.1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	.500	0	1	0	0	0		
Totals	1.00	3-0	3	3	0	2/2	2	27.0	8	4	3	9	27	1	1	0	.085	4	3	0	0	0		
Opponents	3.70	0-3	3	3	0	0/0	0	24.1	23	14	10	13	23	3	0	1	.250	0	4	1	1	1		

PB - Team (1), Sbranti 1, Opp (1). SBA/ATT - Sbranti (2-2), Shingledecke (1-1), Padilla (1-1), Mock (1-1), Biasi (1-1).