THE DAILY TARGUM REVIEWS THE TOP STORIES OF THE FALL 2018 SEMESTER
WEDNESDAY 12/12
Institute for Quantitative Biomedicine and Center for Integrative Proteomics Research presents “Building High-Throughput Expression Libraries From Genomes” from noon to 3 p.m. at Center for Integrative Proteomics Research on Busch campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School presents “Neurology Grand Rounds” from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Clinical Academic Building on the College Avenue campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Mason Gross School of the Arts presents “Fall 2018 Visiting Artists Series: Diamond Simpky” at 6:30 p.m. at Civic Square Building on the College Avenue campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Mason Gross School of the Arts presents “Rutgers Chamber Jazz Ensembles” at 7:30 p.m. at Stephanie Morris Marrapodi Music Building on Douglass campus. This event is free and open to the public.

If you would like to submit an event for the Campus Calendar section, please email marketing@dailytargum.com. For more information please visit www.dailytargum.com. Due to space limitations there is no guarantee that your event will be listed.
Rutgers continues to debate over free speech

RYAN STIESI
NEWS EDITOR

The Rutgers community plunged into discourse and debate as free speech issues arose on campus this semester.

From contested speakers to the University eventually ruling that James Livingston, a professor in the Department of History, did not violate its discrimination policy when he posted racial-ly charged Facebook comments over the summer, Rutgers had to make some important decisions.

While many issues came up this fall, the decision to postpone Lisa Daftari’s speech stands out due to the controversy it took during its development.

Rutgers Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA) booked Daftari, a foreign-affairs journalist, for a speech titled “Radicalism on College Campuses” that was originally scheduled for Oct. 16 at the Douglass Student Center.

Approximately one week prior to the event, Adeel Ahmed, a Douglass Student Senator, started a separate petition calling on the University to prevent Daftari from speaking, according to The Daily Targum.

In the petition, Ahmed said that Daftari’s speech at The Heritage Foundation was Islamophobic.

Ahmed said that Daftari said the following in that speech:

“Isis terror takes its guidance and teachings from the Quran, which is Sharia law... When you go to the mosque and you are part of a community and you want to feel important and relevant, and want to give back to the cause — (ISIS) recruits you. You see, I can be an ISIS wife.”

The petition received more than 1,000 signatures.

In a statement to the Targum, Daftari responded and disputed the claims made against her.

“To call me an ‘Islamophobic’ is slanderous and preposterous,” she said. “If those students took the time to look at my background and the breadth of my coverage, they would see that not only am I Iranian, but I have dedicated my time to mainly defending human rights in Muslim countries on TV, radio, on D.C. panels, government briefings and even at the United Nations where I spoke about the plight of Syrians recently.”

After initially supporting Daftari and the decision to have her speak, UAA backtracked just a few days later, according to the Targum. At the time, University spokesperson Neal Boccino said the event had been postponed indefinitely and did not comment on what led to this decision.

Following this, another Rutgers student started a separate petition aimed at bringing Daftari back to speak, according to the Targum. That petition also received more than 1,000 online signatures.

On Oct. 15, Rutgers Director of Public and Media Relations John Cramer sent an email to the Targum that said the University had offered Daftari four new dates to speak on-campus Wednesday Nov. 14, Monday Nov. 19, Monday Nov. 26 and Wednesday Nov. 28.

Cramer also said that UAA Vice Chancellor Ben Stuhltrager apologized for any confusion.

“Please know that Rutgers values the free and open exchange of all viewpoints and that you are welcome to speak here,” Stuhltrager said at the time according to the email. “I understand, in fact, that you may have been invited by student groups to speak at the University as well as the event that was scheduled for tomorrow night.”

Daftari rejected the offer and said the University shared the aforementioned information regarding their correspondence without her knowledge, according to the Targum.

In a statement sent to the Targum, she shared her email regarding the correspondence and communication.

“Dear Professor Stuhltrager,” Daftari’s email read.

“Thank you for your email. With all due respect, in all of our previous correspondence and communication, it was clear that the University unilaterally decided to cancel the event. To come back after the damage has been done to your reputation and suggest that this was some misunderstanding and to continue with the premise that the event was merely postponed, lacks the integrity and respect that I would have hoped for from my alma mater.

Just as the University was sensitive to the concerns of a group of students who slandered my good name based on falsified quotes, I would hope that the University would now demonstrate the same level of consideration as we move on.”

I wish you and the Rutgers community much success in all your future endeavors.”

Dutta resigns, Barchi to stay 2 more years

BRENDAN BRIGHTMAN
STAFF WRITER

It has been a full semester since Rutgers—New Brunswick Chancellor Debasish Dutta announced his resignation.

In July of this year, The Daily Targum reported that Dutta would resign from his role as chancellor and instead transition to a distinguished professor position.

Dutta began his service as chancellor on July 1, 2017. Before coming to Rutgers, Dutta was the former provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Purdue University.

Dutta said that serving as chancellor had been rewarding, but his vision going forward differed from that of the University.

“During this time it has become clear that my vision for the chancellorship is not in alignment with that of the University,” he said. “It is only fair that I step aside and let the University select a new leader for the New Brunswick campus.”

Dutta added that at the time University President Robert L. Barchi accepted his resignation and has since named Senior Vice President for Research and Economic Development Christopher J. Molloy interim chancellor of Rutgers—New Brunswick.

Dutta reiterated at the time that every one in the Rutgers community has his full support as they work to improve the University.

Molloy had previously served as vice president from December 2013 until taking the interim chancellor position. Before that, he was the dean of the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, the interim provost for biomedical and health sciences and the interim chancellor of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, Barchi said in a statement when he first announced Molloy as chancellor.

“The past year, as chancellor of the Biomedical Campus at Rutgers, has been immensely rewarding,” Dutta said. “Serving in this role at one of America’s oldest and most prominent land grant public universities has been a distinct privilege.”

Molloy said there is not a search committee to replace Dutta currently, and Barchi has not announced that there will be one.

The Daily Targum reported in September that Barchi announced he will be staying on as University president for at least two more years.

“I expect to be in this role for some time, whether it converts to permanent or not that’s really up to the president and the board, but it is possible that that may happen.”

Former Chancellor Debasish Dutta said his vision for the future differed from that of the University. Before he came to Rutgers, he served as a provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Purdue University.

CASPAR ANDROS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lisa Daftari was supposed to speak at a University-sponsored event titled “Radicalism on College Campuses.” Originally scheduled for Oct. 16, the Rutgers Undergraduate Academic Affairs postponed the event for a later date.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Rutgers receives donations for research

CATHERINE NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

$4.2M FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
At the end of October, the Rutgers School of Health Professions received a $4.2 million federal grant to train health practitioners as part of a nationwide effort to improve mental health services.

The University plans on using the grant to turn research into practice. In support of the grant, the Department of Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Counseling is creating a regional Mental Health Technology Transfer Center, which will be 1 of 10 in the country.

Kenneth Gill, chair of the department and the grant’s principal investigator, said the center is expected to be fully operational by 2019.

The center will cover New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, areas where there have been increases in depression, anxiety, panic attacks and post-traumatic stress disorder, according to Rutgers Today.

It will determine development needs by working with people from training and health care providers, as well as provide in-person and online training, said Ann Murphy, program director of Rutgers School of Health Professionals and grant project director.

The center will also create English and Spanish online sites for information, materials and resources to focus on the needs of the Hispanic population, she said.

Rutgers will then be part of a national network of centers established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a new national approach to make effective mental health treatments, support services and evidence-based practices more available to those with mental illness.

“If the research-based practices are better implemented, there will be better outcomes for people with serious mental illnesses,” Gill said.

$2M FOR GUN RESEARCH
Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) and former astronaut Captain Mark Kelly announced on Oct. 24 a $2 million grant to conduct research on gun violence at the Gov. James J. Florio Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Public Policy Lecture, hosted by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

Seven years ago, Giffords was the victim of an assassination attempt and mass shooting while she was meeting with constituents in Arizona. News networks initially reported that she was dead, Kelly, who was in Houston when the shooting occurred, said.

Although Giffords survived the attack, she suffers permanent brain damage and aphasia, which makes language and speaking difficult. Since the attack, Giffords and her husband have devoted their lives to preventing gun violence, advocating for stricter gun control by creating an organization to promote their cause.

“They have (Giffords and Kelly) been showing a way for people to understand the problems associated with the epidemic of gun violence,” said former Gov. James J. Florio (D-N.J.). “As with any other epidemic with the need for education and the need for remediation.”

Their organization not only tries to combat campaign funding for pro-gun groups, but also works on gun control policy. Gill said.

“We plan to use quantitative and qualitative methods to understand culturally appropriate ways to assist the victims and devise sound prevention strategies,” said the $2 million grant, awarded by the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, to the Giffords Law Center.

The grant will be funded in federal grants.

$1.4M FOR ALZHEIMER’S AND ELDER ABUSE
In late September, the Rutgers’ Institute of Health Care Policy and Aging Research received approximately $1.4 million in federal grants.

In a joint press release earlier that month, Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) announced that the University would receive more funding to “research and develop strategies to protect vulnerable older Americans.”

The funding will go toward protecting elders with diseases such as Alzheimer’s or elders subject to neglect, abuse and financial exploitation. The goal is to enhance services in these communities and launch studies on how to reduce the possibility of elder abuse, according to the press release.

Named the Elder Justice Innovation Grants, they were established by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2016. These grants, which will last for two years, “seek to improve the well-being of abuse survivors,” according to ACL’s website.

Dr. XinQi Dong, director of the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, is the leader of the elder abuse research effort.

“ACL’s innovation grants provide opportunities to use quantitative and qualitative methods to understand culturally appropriate ways to assist the victims and devise sound prevention strategies,” he said.

The ACL innovation grants in 2016 and five in 2017, each grant undergoing a rigorous evaluation. Jhon Penz-Cordova, a School of Arts and Sciences senior, has a close relative who suffers from Alzheimer’s. He said increased funding would result in more programs focused on helping older adults.

“I think that giving more funding to programs for adults is a big change to organize and implement programs for the well-being and health of older adults, in particular for mental and social health,” he said. “This is a great opportunity because many statistics show that there is an increase in the population of older adults in America.”
Controversies spark several on-campus protests, rallies

BRENDAN BRIGHTMAN
STAFF WRITER

This semester the Rutgers community initiated multiple protests and demonstrations on campus.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Last week, The Daily Targum reported that students and faculty picketed outside Wainain Hall on College Avenue before and during the Board of Governors meeting on Dec. 6 to demand a $15 minimum wage for all University employees and raise awareness of the state of current contract negotiations between faculty unions and the Rutgers administration.

The picketing was organized by the American Association of University Professors and American Federation of Teachers (AAUP-AFT), which represents more than 7,000 faculty members at the University. Deepa Kumar, the president of the AAUP-AFT and associate professor in the Department of Media Studies and Modern Eastern Studies, said at the time that those who were tenured do not have the same academic freedom as tenure-track professors.

Lisa Ritchie, a part-time lecturer in Mason Gross School of the Arts, said she did not know if she would be reappointed for the next semester.

During the Board of Governors meeting, students in the organization United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS) donned Santa hats with “USU” written on the front. While University President Robert L. Barchi was speaking, students broke out into holiday carols parodied to advocate their cause.

One of their chants parodied the traditional Christmas song “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” lyrics being “Rudolph the low-wage worker / had a very long work day / and if you ever saw him / he needs a living wage.”

LISA DAFTARI

The Targum reported in October that the University decided to postpone the speaking event with Lisa Daftari, the editor-in-chief of The Foreign Desk and a regular on Fox News, after students voiced their opposition.

The event, titled “Radicalism on College Campuses,” was sponsored by the College Republicans, a student organization.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The Targum reported earlier this semester that Rutgers was among the institutions across the country affected by the Senate’s inability to confirm or deny then-Supreme Court nominee Brett M. Kavanaugh and the sexual misconduct allegations made against him by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

Survivors of sexual assault and harassment, along with advocates for spreading awareness about sexual violence, gathered in a demonstration called “Rutgers Speaks Out For Survivors” at Brower Commons on the College Avenue campus.

Anjanette Vaidya, the founder of the organization Rutgers Students With Children, said the evening’s rally was an answer to the trauma that those who were non-tenured students had been experiencing in regard to the Ford-Kavanaugh hearings.

“Tonight was about making room for a public kind of reclaiming of this institution as a place where our voices can actually be heard,” she said at the demonstration.

U. handles crime this semester

CATHERINE NGUYEN
STAFF WRITER

IMMIGRATION POLICIES

On Nov. 5, a South Brunswick man was arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) and handling over false identification, according to an article from Telemundo.

The Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) confirmed in an email that two of its officers arrested Luis Alberto López on Sept. 29. The email also included that University policy requires it notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of any person arrested for a serious crime found in connection with immigration issues.

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STAGE LEFT
It was a hardening and humbling season for the Rutgers football team this year, as it seemed that no matter how much it tried, nothing went its way.

The Scarlet Knights finished the season 1-11 overall and winless (0-9) in the Big Ten, for the second time in three years — the same duration of time that has passed since the arrival of first-year head coach Chris Ash on the Banks. Rutgers rode an 11-game losing streak that left students, faculty, alumni and fans bemoaning as it went another year at the bottom of the conference.

The season began with high hopes from both fans and the media alike with the arrival of new offensive coordinator John McNulty from the NFL, ranks, and the arrival of four-star freshman quarterback Artur Sitkowski who made a big impression on the team by beating out fifth-year senior Giovanni Rescigno for the starting nod during training camp this summer.

But looking back from where things are now, it’s hard to describe the confusion and heartbreak that this season delivered.

Just looking at Sitkowski’s numbers is tough. In the 11 games played, Sitkowski threw for the season finale at Michigan State in favor of Rescigno — Sitkowski went 13-of-24 provisional for 111.1 percent, for 1158 yards, 4 touchdowns and had nationwide tying lead for interceptions against Michigan.

But growing pains can be expected for such a young quarterback, and it was a good experience for the student athlete that he will surely learn from in the coming seasons.

Despite the rough season, the Knights showed a lot of heart, which was already hurting from losses in the depth chart due to suspensions and injuries, possibly none bigger then the injury of senior corner back Hlassian Austin, who tore his ACL after intercepting a pass in the opener — the same ACL he tore in 2017 that kept him out of the major part of that season as well.

As the season wound down through the end of September until mid-October, Rutgers still suffered some bad losses against Indiana, Illinois and Maryland as Big Ten play began to heat up. In the 24-27 loss to the Hoosiers, sophomore placekicker Justin Davidovicz hit a 52-yard field goal that tied for the fourth longest in program history and was the longest kick ever made at HighPoint.com Stadium.

The Knights had one of their best seasons in winning a conference game against Northwestern on Oct. 20. The team held a 15-7 lead over the Wildcats with 10 minutes to play in the third quarter, but Rutgers couldn’t hold, falling 18-15 to the eventual Big Ten West winners.

Then came arguably the toughest November in the nation, which featured four games against four teams which at some point of the season spent time in the top 25 rankings — Wisconsin, Michigan, Penn State and Michigan State.

The Badgers weren’t ranked when they hosted the Knights in Madison, Wis., and it showed a bit as time moved forward in the game. Wisconsin only went into halftime with a 10-0 lead thanks in part to senior safety Saquan Hampton having one of the best performances of his career in the first half — Hampton picked off quarterback Alex Hornibrook twice and seemed to be all over the field.

Still, the Badgers escaped with a 31-17 victory over Rutgers that kept them without a win in the conference through six Big Ten games played to that point.

The Knights then hosted the then-No. 4 Wolverines a week later, and played tightly with the team that crushed them 78-0 just two years ago. Freshman running back Isaih Pacheco ran off an 80-yard touchdown on his first carry of the game to give the team a 3-0 lead after the first quarter.

Pacheco’s run was the longest ever by a Rutgers freshman, the longest for the Knights since joining the Big Ten and the longest against Michi- gan all season. Despite this, the Wolve- rines were still a top-5 team in the nation, and proceeded to shut out Rut- ger’s for the remainder of the game.

The most highly anticipated matchup of the year against then-No. 16 Nittany Lions marked the end of the Knights’ season at HighPoint.com Stadium, and the last time its seniors would compete in front of the home crowd.

“The Knights’ defensive woes led to extra drives for a defense that was already hurting from losses in the depth chart due to suspensions and injuries, possibly none bigger then the injury of senior corner back Hlassian Austin, who tore his ACL after intercepting a pass in the opener — the same ACL he tore in 2017 that kept him out of the major part of that season as well.

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“IT’S HARD TO BE NIT-PICKY, WE’RE UNDEFEATED, WE’VE WON ALL OUR MEETS. THE DIVES HAVE BEEN AMAZING.”

JOHN MACCOLL

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Pacheco’s run was the longest ever by a Rutgers freshman, the longest for the Knights since joining the Big Ten and the longest against Michi- gan all season. Despite this, the Wolve- rines were still a top-5 team in the nation, and proceeded to shut out Rut- ger’s for the remainder of the game.

The most highly anticipated matchup of the year against then-No. 16 Nittany Lions marked the end of the Knights’ season at HighPoint.com Stadium, and the last time its seniors would compete in front of the home crowd.

On Jan. 11, Rutgers will face off with the University of Nebraska, Lincoln to prepare for the 2018 Big Ten Championships from Feb. 21 to Feb. 24. Then, the team will compete in the NCAA Championships from March 21 to March 23.

On Feb. 21, the season, the Knights will head to Stockholm, Sweden for the Swim Open from April 12 to Apr. 14.

For updates on the Rutgers football team, follow @cgreen204 and @TargumSports on Twitter.
Over The Hedge  
T. Lewis and M. Fry  

Universal Crossword  

ACROSS  
1. Discomfort cry  
5. Handy tools for cobbler  
9. Anger  
14. Cornell founder’s first  
15. “Save Night,” for one  
16. Brickys Raleighs  
17. Inspected the rails?  
18. Poisonous flammable gas  
19. Wins, barely  
20. Pupil site  
21. Titles for Japanese emperors  
22. Time between events  
23. Very boring  
24. Fronted, as a parade  
25. Easy chair site  
26. Response to “Shall we?”  
27. Stonefaced  
28. Movie headliner  
29. Hawaiian gala  
30. “Silent Night,” for one  
32. Cul-de-___ 
35. Strapped for money  
37. Invisible emanation  
38. Vehicle that makes huge splashes?  
39. Chain letters, to geneticists  
40. Became prominent  
42. Dealers in futures  
43. Seed spreader  
45. Given a new role  
46. Black eye, slangily  
47. Was an author  
53. Goose with a black neck  
54. “Copacabana” figure  
57. Fit of shivering  
61. Ultimately better?  
63. “High,” only  

DOWN  
2. Little treasures you want to  
4. LeBron James’ squad  
6. Thing on a hook  
7. Opposed one  
8. “Silent Night,” for one  
9. Presents posers  
10. Title used in Turkey  
11. “I have no regret.”  
12. Cozy  
13. Presents posers  
14. Titles for Japanese emperors  
15. Tiny-castle flooder  
16. Wrinkly tangelos  
17. Wins, barely  
18. Poisonous flammable gas  
19. Wins, barely  
20. Pupil site  
21. Titles for Japanese emperors  
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63. “High,” only  

Yesterday’s Solution  

Sudoku Puzzle  

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.  

Yesterday’s Solution  

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do your best to help. Pinching will ward off criticism and complaints. Learn from those with more experience; they will open up a passageway to the success you crave. Personal change should be looked at carefully before you begin. 4 stars  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put some thought into the relationships you share with others. Consider what you can do to make life better for those going through a tough time. What you share will bring you more joy than what you give. Live, love, laugh. 2 stars  
GEMINI May 21-June 20: Tidy up loose ends and you’ll enjoy the remainder of the month. Don’t trust anyone else to take care of your responsibilities for you. Be open about what you want, how you feel and what you are willing to do. 3 stars  
CANCER June 21-July 22: Let’s review the year on a high note. Step up and offer solutions. You’ll be able to transform some of the difficulties you face into accomplishments you can be proud of. Romance is on the rise. 5 stars  
LEO July 23-Aug. 22: Speed things up a bit and you will accomplish all you set out to do. Spend time with your lover, plan activities with young’uns or shop for little treasures you want to share or give to others. 5 stars  
VIRGO Aug. 23-Sept. 22: A good plan and a steady pace will help you keep the peace. If someone overreaches, keep moving forward. What you share will bring you more joy than what you give. 3 stars  
LIBRA Sept. 23-Oct. 22: Participate and explore new possibilities. You may not please everyone, but it’s time to enjoy life with people who share your interests and your opinions. Don’t miss out to avoid a dispute with someone who doesn’t know how to have fun. 3 stars  
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Communicate to avoid a misunderstanding. Don’t let an emotional incident at home ruin your day. Get out and pick up something special for someone you love. You don’t have to spend a lot; it’s the thought that counts. 2 stars  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal gains look promising. Don’t let someone interfere with your plans by taking over. A physical change you make will draw attention and compliments. Romance will improve your personal life and make you feel good regarding prospects. 3 stars  
AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18: Make a point of taking care of your chores and responsibilities yourself. A change of pace or environment will do you good. Recognizing what you have will get you in the spirit of giving to those who are without. 5 stars  
PISCES Feb. 19-March 20: Sign up to help out in your community. What you learn about those who have fallen on hard times will help you appreciate people from all walks of life. An unusual relationship will develop with someone you least expect. 1 stars  

Happy Birthday: Memories will surface urging you to reconnect with your past and those you haven’t seen for some time. Going back in time will give you a way to closure and the ability to use the experiences you have had to help you engage in new beginnings. Use your charm to encourage those you love to share your journey and to grow with you. Your numbers are 6, 10, 17, 24, 32, 38, 47.
Sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis was named to the All-Big Ten First Team in her second Big Ten season.

This season, the roster featured two first Team All-Big Ten players, and one Second Team-All Big Ten. Sophomore goalkeeper Gianna Linde and sophomore midfielder Daphne Groothuis were named to the first team while junior backfielder Linde van Schalk earned second team honors.

Groothuis played phenomenally all season long. The only goalkeeper to be named to both Teams All Big Ten list, she certainly was deserving. Groothuis boasted nine shutouts, tied for the nations’ lead. Her .811 save percentage was second best nationally and first in the conference. With Groothuis in goal, Rutgers allowed just 18 goals in 18 games, fifth least in the nation.

After receiving second team honors last season, Groothuis led the team with 12 goals, 13 assists and 37 points this season. She was first in the Big Ten with 276 points and her assists total was good enough for fourth nationally.

Van Schalk earned her third career All-Big Ten accolade by being named to the second team this season. She was third on the team with seven goals and added six assists for 20 points this season, a new career high.

None of those goals were more important than the ones she scored against Northwestern and Michigan State, which were both game winners. She finishes her career ranked to 20 in program history in goals and points.

“These awards are a great reflection of the hard work and dedication of the team this season,” said head coach Meredith Civi-co, according to scarletknights.com. “Daphne, Gianna and Linde have worked tirelessly day in and day out, and they pushed us to new levels. It’s awesome that they have been recognized by the Big Ten for their on-field efforts.”

After an impressive regular season came to an end, the Knights had a tough first round draw in the Big Ten Tournament, meeting Ohio State on the road, a team they had lost to in shootout fashion earlier in the year.

In that game, Rutgers fell, losing 1-0 in double overtime. At this point in the season, their NCAA tournament hopes were jeopardized.

But, one of the most exuberant moments of the season happened on the night of Nov. 4, when the Knights gathered together to watch the NCAA Tournament selection show.

Down to the final at-large bid, Rutgers finally heard its name called. In a moment that was captured on video, the Knights sprung out of their seats and began screaming and hugging one another.

“It was amazing, there was so much suspense building up to it especially since we were called nearly last,” Groothuis said. “It was super emotional just to be with your best friends, your sisters, and have that moment of pure enjoyment, it was just fantastic.”

Unfortunately, Rutgers fell short in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, losing to powerhouse UConn, 5-0.

One thing is certain after this season. The bar for the Knights has been substantially raised, and this team expects even bigger things to come in the future.

“l am incredibly proud of this team and the effort they put into not only today but the whole season. It’s obviously a very disappointing result, but being here, in the NCAA Tournament, and playing the defending National Champion was a great experience,” Civi-co said. “It’s one we will learn from, and hopefully we will use it to achieve even more in 2019. I’m so grateful to the players, staff, administration and family of the Rutgers Field Hockey program for a truly historic season.”

For updates on the Rutgers field hockey team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

Rutgers finishes fall with most wins in 10 years

Matthew Howe

Three Big Ten All Americans Five were named in total. An NCAA tournament berth. All are accolades that describe the Rutgers field hockey team’s 2018 season.

The Scarlet Knights (13-6) finished with the most wins in program history since 2008. The NCAA tournament berth was the team’s first since 1998. The team returns a roster next season that is graduating two seniors.

This season, when the Rutgers volleyball team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

From last season’s 16-player roster, Rutgers dropped to 12 with seven returning players and five international freshmen — three from Russia, one from Israel and one from Germany. If the team is able to stick together, those relationships will soon develop into better communication for future matches.

“We have the talent and the skillset and the ability that if we can just play good, consistent volleyball, that’s enough,” Werneke said. “Right now, we have too many peaks and valleys. We play some really great volleyball and we play some ugly volleyball. Sometimes we stay in that valley a little too long.”

The Knights were the most consistent with their defense this season, averaging 2.6 blocks per set.

Junior middle blocker Jasmine Stackhouse led the team with a season total of 120 blocks, a school record for a single season since 2000. Stackhouse has racked up a career total of 251 blocks to become 10th in Rutgers’ all-time record book.

“We work hard on trying not to let the title of who they are dictate how we’re going to play,” Stackhouse said. “The mentality going in is it doesn’t matter who they are, at the end of the day, we still have job to do.”

With such a success, Baum said it kept true to these words.

Also making her way into the record book was junior libero Karsya Swackenbergh. She has a career total of 901 digs, good for 10th on the program’s all-time digs list.

The Knights’ potential is there, but they still have a long way to go to become a hard-hitting team in the conference.

One of Rutgers’ most noteworthy matches came in the middle of the season when the Knights won a set against No. 17 Purdue. The last time Rutgers won a set against a nationally ranked team was during the 2015 season.

“We’ve proven, even against Penn State and the best in the conference, when we’re in system and in rhythm, we can really play with anybody,” Werneke said. “But the trick is, you know it’s going to break down to some point. Somebody’s going to make a play. You’re going to be a little bit out of rhythm, what do you do then? Are you still effective? Are you still executing at a high level?”

The Knights have a long way to go before they can start consistently defeating Big Ten teams, but over the past few seasons, they have remained relatively stagnant. This freshman class may be the turning point. Again, with such varying playing styles, the freshmen bring something special to the team. But for next year, a main focus should be on staying positive.

This season, when Rutgers volleyball would take a lead, it changed their dynamic significantly. But right when the Knights felt a point behind, they would get frustrated.

“You’ve got to compete first before you can win,” Werneke said. “So now that we’re competing more regularly in the 20s against our opponents and 20-all, that’s just gaining valuable experience that we haven’t been there before. So now that we’re getting there and gaining this experience, now it’s time to go. Okay, we’ve been there. We’ve done that. Let’s take the next step.”

For updates on the Rutgers volleyball team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

Volleyball Rutgers drops 20 straight to big ten opponents

Alex Fabugais-Inaba & Delaney Zubrick

After playing 100 conference games since joining the Big Ten in 2015, the Rutgers volleyball team sits at an overall record of 20-26. In the Scarlet Knights’ 2018 season (8-20, 6-27), their 20 consecutive losses might look bad in the record book, but they’ve seen a lot of improvement over the past couple of years.

1. The Big Ten is the most competitive volleyball conference in the nation. Seven conference teams were selected to the NCAA Tournament, and six of those teams made it to the Regional Semifinals. No. 3 Illinois and No. 7 Nebraska made it to the national semifinals and will play each other on Dec. 13.

The Big Ten is just a grind,” said head coach CJ Werneke. “You’ve got to be consistent and right now, we’ve shown that we’re not a consistent team. We have to play at a consistently good level. We don’t have to play great, just good.”

Rutgers had a rocky start to its nonconference schedule, losing its first three straight games at the Molten Classic in Califor-nia. The Knights were able to win six out of the rest of their ten matches before the start of the Big Ten season.

Although head coach CJ Werneke’s team went winless in Big Ten games, the Knights ranked in the top 16 for blocks in October.

The Big Ten is the most competitive conference in the nation. Seven conference teams were selected to the NCAA Tournament, and six of those teams made it to the Regional Semifinals. No. 3 Illinois and No. 7 Nebraska made it to the national semifinals and will play each other on Dec. 13.

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**WOMEN’S SOCCER** RUTGERS UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS RUNS OUT WHEN IT COUNTS

**Knights fight through Big Ten in historic regular season**

**JACKSON THOMPSON**  CORRESPONDENT

Three years ago the Rutgers women’s soccer team went on a historic postseason run that culminated in a shootout victory over the No. 1-ranked team in the country. It was the first time the program ever qualified for the College Cup and the Big Ten Championship and it happened in the second year.

In 2018 the last remnants of that historic 2015 team walked out of Yurcak field for the final time. Seniors Kenie Wright, Adrienne Meume and Brianna Scarola made their final appearances as Scarlet Knights in a bittersweet season that saw some history made of its own.

After qualifying for the NCAA tournament each of the past four seasons, head coach Mike O’Neill led his team into 2018 with perhaps the highest expectations of his tenure. Returning upperclassmen like Wright and Meume and juniors Chamante Swaby, Taylor Ayhner and Nicole Whaley combined their all-conference veterans with some of the state’s top recruits in freshmen Sheena Shaari and Mag McCall in O’Neill would also find the most truly dangerous piece of his lineup in reigning freshman of the year, sophomore Amirah Ali, the defensive difference-maker on a team that had to fight for everything it earned in 2018. By all accounts the roster alone made for a team with the potential to do a lot of damage, if the Scarlet Knights in 2018 season could come easy. After an undefeated 4-0-1 start to the season, Rutgers found their first loss just one weekend prior to the start of Big Ten play. In an upset loss to in-state rival Monmouth, The Scarlet Knights in a bittersweet season that saw some history made of its own.

Sophomore forward Amirah Ali scored back-to-back golden goals in overtime against No. 14 Northwestern and Illinois. She had 20 goals in a season when she was named to the All-Big Ten First Team. DUSTIN NILES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER / SEPTEMBER 2018

“IT’s just a humble and hungry group. That’s the key to success, you have to be humble and you have to be hungry.”

MIKE O’NEILL  Head Coach

The Knights was the story of the conference and at the center of it all was Ali, who delivered the game winner in four of Rutgers first five conference wins, en route to scoring a then conference leading 10 goals. All’s rising stock as a collegiate super star was accompanied by a team on the defensive side of the field. McClelland who was named the starting goalkeeper just prior to the start of the season, establishing herself as one of the conference’s most efficient goalkeepers. In low-scoring struggle against Minnesota and Wisconsin, McClelland tallied five saves in back-to-back games, a pair of performances critical to two huge wins that kept the Knights undefeated in conference play. As a freshman, McClelland finished 2018 with a conference-best 0.95 goals-against average and the most shutouts with eight.

With 12 seconds separating the teams from their fourth straight game without a win, Ali delivered a game-winning goal in a moment that would be both defining and recurring in the 2018 season.

Ali golden goal against Iowa was a turning point for the Knights, sparking a historic streak that propelled the team to first place in the Big Ten. Rutgers found itself in the thick of school history, having gone undefeated over a program record nine straight overtime games.

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As a transfer from Central Michigan, senior Madison Pogacnik came to Rutgers in her final year as a Big Ten newcomer, but solidified herself as a key player on one of the best defenses in the country. Her performances against Northwestern and Illinois earned her her Big Ten defensive player of the week honors and proved the transfer’s impact on a team that had climbed to the top of the conference and a national ranking that reached as high as 21.

For those three magical weeks it seemed that the Knights just couldn’t lose, but along the way, inefficiencies in the offense be came more apparent. The identity of the team to that point had been stout defense and timely scoring by Amirah Ali and a handful of other forwards, a recipe that was working against Big Ten opponents. While the offense was by no means the best in the conference, they found the back of the net with less frequency the deeper they got into the schedule, particularly for players not named Amirah Ali.

After the 1-0 win against the Fighting Illini, Rutgers had officially scored more goals in overtime than they had in regulation since the start of conference play, and would not score another goal in regulation until the last game of the season. While the team second to thrive in overtime, the extra periods were taking their toll on the durability of the players.

In spite of all this, the Knights sat alone in first place in the Big Ten, and a chance to claim a program’s first ever regular season title. In their final road trip of the season, Rutgers would face the two teams behind them in the standings in Ohio State and Penn State in the Big Ten tournament with the second seed it all for both.

The Knights would be upset at Yurcak field in the first round of the Big Ten tournament by Minnesota, becoming a footnote in Minnesota’s 2018 conference championship run. The fatigue of their excess of overtime games may have reared its ugly head as their star Ali saw limited time in the standings in Ohio State and postsea son nemesis Penn State.

The Knights would play in a scoreless tie against the Buck eyes in a game that officially marked the record-breaking ninth straight overtime game, setting up the most important game of the season at Universi ty Park.

It would be the eighth meet ing between Rutgers and Penn State in only the past three years, the latest entry in a rivalry between two teams that have met in the postseason every year since 2015. The three seniors that were a part of the historic 2015 team went into that game game remembering ire of the defeats to Penn State on the 2016 Big Ten Championship game and then in the college cup quarterfinals only one month later.

Off the heels of nine straight overtime games, O’Neill led his team into Jeffrey Field on a windy Sunday afternoon in October. The Knights and the Nittany Lions sat atop the Big Ten standings at a dead even tie, the winner would take control of first place and control its own destiny to a regular season title.

But this game wouldn’t make it to an extra period. Rutgers’ streak of overtime games would come to an end against Penn State and with it would their undefeated status in the Big Ten. The Nittany Lions handed the Knights only their second loss of the season in a 1-0 loss to Duke.

For updates on the Rutgers soc cer team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

Freshman goalkeeper Meagan McClelland was an All-Big Ten selection in her first season. She led the conference in goals-against average. DUSTIN NILES / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER / SEPTEMBER 2018
LEGENDARY:
COACH C. VIVIAN STRINGER REACHES 1K WINS