Rutgers Athletics overspends its 2017 operating budget by $2.3 M.

When the Athletics Department failed to meet its overspent budget during 2016, it received roughly $10 million from Rutgers to cover costs related to coach buyouts and investments in future competitiveness, according to Athletic Director Pat Hobbs. "We have to gain competitiveness with an expectation and some certainty around future stream of payments, you can model that financially where it allows us to make investments today that will pay off in the future," he said.

A later NJ Advance Media report clarified that according to the University Transition Plan, the loan is actually $61.1 million. In 2021, Rutgers is predicted to owe $23.7 million in loans and interest. The "future stream of payments" refers to when Rutgers becomes a member of Big Ten in 2024 — an increase from the $9.8 million it received for the previous fiscal year, according to NJ Advance Media.

The full revenue share in 2017 was $51.1 million, according to the Asbury Park Press article. Because the University will not receive the $51.1 million share until 2021, Rutgers is getting less than its conference counterparts such as Ohio State and Penn State. Since joining the conference in 2014 it is still getting just a fraction of the distributed money.

In March, following the deficit noted in the 2016 Rutgers Athletics financial report, the University’s New Brunswick Faculty Council passed a resolution deploring the shortfall and asking for an outside consultant to review the financial problems, according to NJ Advance Media.

"President Robert (L.) Barchi remains committed to ensuring the Athletics Department becomes self-sufficient as soon as possible. Rutgers Athletics will be in a position to generate a positive cash flow for the University after we receive our full share of Big Ten revenues in 2021. Membership in the Big Ten brings numerous benefits for Rutgers students, faculty and researchers, including shared academic resources and research collaborations with our peer institutions in the Big Ten," said Karen Ayres Smith, a Rutgers spokesperson, in a statement to NJ Advance Media.

U. appoints new head of health institution

SAIGE FRANCIS
COPY EDITOR

XinQi Dong, a Rutgers Medicine, Nursing and Behavioral Sciences professor, has been named director of the University’s Institute for Health, Care Policy and Aging Research (IFH).

Dong, who works at the Rush University Medical Center, will begin serving as director and the inaugurator Henry Rutgers Professor of Population Sciences on April 1, according to Rutgers Today.

IFH, established in 1980, is an institute that "facilitates collaboration among the social and behavioral sciences, clinical disciplines, basic sciences and related fields to promote research on critical health and mental health issues," according to the institute’s official site.

The institute conducts research in five core areas including behavioral health, health economics, social determinants of health and illness, state health policy and health services research.

The new director is a renowned population epidemiologist and health services researcher who specializes in geriatric and internal medicine — his main focus being community-based participatory research, according to Rush University’s site.

He is currently the principle investigator of eight federally-funded grants, the editor of the textbook, "Elder Abuse: Research, Practice and Policy" and the guest editor-in-chief for the Journal of Aging Health and Journal Gerontology: Medical Sciences.

Dong has conducted research in the United States and China, investigating the intersections of violence, resilience and health outcomes, according to Rutgers Today.

Students support legal marijuana amid NJ medicinal program review

CHRISTIAN ZAPATA
COPY EDITOR

As states across the country move to expand marijuana legalization, Gov. Phil Murphy’s (D.N.J.) 60-day review of New Jersey’s medical marijuana program brings the Garden State one step closer to its own legalization.

At a press conference in Trenton on Tuesday, Murphy talked about how efforts to further expand the legalization of medical marijuana and open dispensaries in New Jersey have been slow in light of a hostile administration, according to NJ Advance Media.

"... the ability of dispensaries to open has been slow-hosted. Doctors have faced stigmatization for participating. And nonsmokable and edible products that could benefit patients have been blocked from the market," he said, according to Murphy’s ideas for legal marijuana in New Jersey.

Home delivery service, expanding available edible products and raising the purchase limit from 2 ounces are a few of Gov. Phil Murphy's ideas for legal marijuana in New Jersey.

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New bill endorses on-time graduation for NJ students

RYAN STIESI
staff writer

A new bill in the New Jersey State House shines a light on college graduation, affordability, and institutional accountability in the Garden State.

More than 60 percent of bachelor’s-degree seeking students in New Jersey graduate in six years, according to data from the National Center for Higher Education Management System (NCHEMS), a nonprofit that focuses on improving higher education decision making.

The state is high on the list, but additional college years mean more spending, loans and potential debt. To address this, bill A322 — which would require certain undergraduate students to file degree plans and public universities to develop graduation pathways — awaits decisions in the new legislative session, according to the New Jersey State Legislature.

Assemblywoman Nancy J. Pinkin (D-15) is the primary sponsor for the bill, and Assemblyman Joe Danielsen of the 17th legislative district, home to New Brunswick, is third prime on it.

“We became involved and interested in the bill from an affordability point of view with college students,” Wayne Dibofsky, chief of staff for Assemblyman Joe Danielsen, said.

He said that Danielsen and staff became a third sponsor on the bill after finding studies done by the Commission on Higher Education that showed the average student at a four-year college in New Jersey spends closer to five-and-a-half to six years in school rather than to four to get a degree.

Dibofsky said there could be many reasons — financial, health, personal or others — for a student taking extra time to graduate, but regardless the more time a student spends in school the higher their debt becomes.

This bill would then serve as a way to move students through college faster, making it more affordable by providing them with guidance and bringing more accountability to higher-education institutions, he said.

The Daily Targum reported in October that nearly 59 percent of Rutgers students graduate in four years and around 80 percent graduate in six, rates that are both above the national average.

In an interview with the Targum, Courtney McAnuff, vice president of Enrollment Management at Rutgers, said these numbers are high which reflects well on the students, but also explained that financial issues are what gets students in trouble — and failing behind in a degree track can be a pervasive problem.

“If you’re not finishing 30 credits a year you can’t finish in four years. Every additional year costs about $65,000 to $70,000,” McAnuff said. “The bill would then go to the Senate where it would pass committee and go to the floor.”

He explained the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement that the Office of Financial Aid has, which states that financial aid recipients must meet both a qualitative and quantitative standard to maintain eligibility for aid and complete the program within a maximum timeframe.

“Staying on track to graduate, not just GPA can affect students’ financial situations,” Dibofsky said.

Located in Trenton, the New Jersey State House serves as the governor’s capitol building where bill A322, and others like it, are first conceived and written into their proper technical form. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

As the third sponsor, we can’t take the lead on the bill,” Dibofsky said. “You know, it’s just procedurally wrong. We’ve had Rutgers students in before on bills that we’ve been second and third prime on, requesting us to help. We can do the best job we can, but you can’t go against a committee.”

The exact legislation of the bill, if it were to be signed into law, is not set Dibofsky said. He said that if it did become law, the next step would be a college takeover.

“Once a bill becomes a law, you have framework for the intent,” he said. “The bill would then go to the Commission on Higher Education. As it stands, the purpose of the bill is simply to move people through the higher-education system faster in hopes of saving students money and holding institutions more accountable, Dibofsky reiterated.”
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE


Murphy said he is willing to consider providing home delivery services, allowing people to buy more than 2 ounces of dried marijuana a month, expanding the availability of edible products, permitting the six approved dispensary operators to open multiple retail locations and expediting the patient application process, according to NJ Advance Media.

“The goal of the audit is to improve access for patients who have encountered too many bureaucratic hurdles in trying to participate,” Murphy said.

At the conference, Murphy invited a number of families currently enrolled in New Jersey's medical marijuana program.

Soon-to-be Rutgers student Charles Griebell has been a medical marijuana patient since last year. He spoke about how marijuana treatment helps him manage his post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and Tourette syndrome.

“Cannabis-infused butter calms my body down. I've only had six absences this year, compared to 80 last year,” Griebell said.

As states rapidly transition into pro-marijuana legislation, so have concerns regarding the drug's possible health implications.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse reported approximately 70 percent of high school seniors do not consider marijuana harmful and 44 percent report having smoked it at some point in their life, according to Rutgers Today.

Issues such as education, treatment and increased studies on how marijuana affects the developing brain should be addressed before laws are enacted,” said Theodore Petti, a professor in Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, in an interview with Rutgers Today.

The brains of people under the age of 25 are still susceptible to adverse side effects from marijuana use, Petti said in an interview with The Daily Targum.

Paired with exceedingly high Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) levels and a decrease in cannabinoid — the compound in marijuana which mitigates the effects of epilepsy without inducing psychotomimetic properties — teenagers and young adults are far more susceptible to negative side effects than their parents were.

“A lot of individuals who are older adults into middle age recall the marijuana that was available to them and say, ‘Well that’s not a big issue. I used it and I’m successful,’” but the THC as it increased has more potential for adverse effects and that’s really major concern,” Petti said.

Despite this, student groups on campus continue to show their support.

“Medical marijuana has been legal in New Jersey for eight years. However, it has been incredibly difficult for New Jerseyans to actually gain access to medical marijuana,” said Megan Coyne, a School of Arts and Sciences senior and president of Rutgers Democrats. “It is vital that our state government studies the current system and finds ways to best improve access to it for patients, so as to work towards creating a healthier, fairer and safer state.”

She said a huge boost to the state’s economy and criminal justice reform are some of the benefits New Jersey residents will reap from legalization.

“More directly, certain Rutgers’ policies would have to be reconsidered as a result of legalisation,” she said. “Currently, students who are in possession of illegal drugs, which currently includes marijuana, can face a variety of punishment, including arrest, expulsion or loss of University housing. Students are not even allowed to possess or use medical marijuana on the Rutgers campus.”

Marijuana has plenty of medical benefits as an alternative to opioid painkillers and much fewer negative side effects compared to other legal drugs like tobacco and alcohol, said Brandon Chesner, a School of Arts and Sciences sophomore and member of the Rutgers Conservative Union.

“It should honestly be regulated the same way cigarettes are so anything that’ll bring it closer to wider distribution is a positive,” he said. “There isn’t really any reason for all this red tape.”

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

In March 2018, Dr. Dong was selected as the director of the Institute for Health, Behavior, and Society, a new institute within Rutgers University that will focus on linking research across the social sciences.

In his role, Dr. Dong will look to build on the school’s strengths in public health, economics, and policy, and bring together researchers in these fields to study the impacts of laws and policies on health and wellbeing.

Dr. Dong will also work closely with the University’s Institute for Health, Economics, and Society and the University’s Institute for Health, Behavior, and Society.

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The University of Washington

Legalization across the country

WISCONSIN — Wisconsin became one of the first U.S. states to legalize recreational marijuana in 2012. Since then, the state has raised more than $1 billion dollars from cannabis sales. You must be at least 21 years old to purchase cannabis and can have up to an ounce on your person, but you cannot smoke publicly. The growing of marijuana is illegal unless you are a producer — a licensed grower — or you are using it for medicinal use.

COLORADO — Colorado was also one of the first states to legalize recreational marijuana in 2012. You must be at least 21 years old to purchase cannabis and can have up to an ounce in your house, but you cannot smoke publicly. Tourists and residents alike are allowed to purchase cannabis in one transaction.

OREGON — Oregon legalized recreational use of marijuana in 2015. You must be at least 21 years old to purchase cannabis, can have up to an ounce on your person and can grow up to four plants within your household, but you cannot smoke publicly. Private citizens can have up to eight ounces of marijuana within their homes.

ALASKA — Alaska legalized recreational use of marijuana in 2015 and began legal sales through licensed dispensaries on Oct. 29, 2016. You must be at least 21 years old to purchase cannabis, can have up to an ounce on your person and can grow up to six plants within your household, but you cannot smoke publicly.

CALIFORNIA — California legalized recreational use of marijuana in the beginning of this year. The legal sales through licensed dispensaries began Jan. 1. State laws match those of Alake.

NEVADA — Nevada legalized recreational use of marijuana on Nov. 8, 2016 and legal sales of marijuana through licensed dispensaries began July 1, 2017. Like other states, you must be at least 21 years old to purchase cannabis and you can possess no more than an ounce at a time. But, residents must live at least 25 miles from a dispensary in order to be a producer.
The American economy is currently experiencing its longest stretch of continuous job growth in recorded history. For 87 months in a row, the unemployment rate has lingered just above 4 percent, the lowest in nearly 50 years. Yet after these eight years of steady progress, the economy continues to feel fundamentally broken to most Americans. The middle class sees the system of broad prosperity and mobility, which once made the United States the envy of the world, at risk of falling apart. No set of economic data better encapsulates this era of false promise and resent- ment better than the last four decades of stagnant wage growth.

Last month’s job report from the Department of Labor showed median wages grew just 2.5 percent last year, barely topping inflation. Despite the tightest job market in two decades, the real earnings of the median worker hardly budged. The economic orthodoxy that dominates mainstream pol- tics posits that as unemployment dips this low, wage growth should acceler- ate as employers compete for the shrinking pool of idle labor. Unfortunate- ly, this link has mostly disappeared since the 1970s. For all the nostalgia over President Ronald Reagan’s economic expansion, real wages actually declined over that period and have not improved much in successive busi- ness cycles, according to data from the Brookings Institution.

It was not always this way. There was once a time when the average worker’s wages rose with productivity. According to the Economic Pol- icy Institute, from 1948 to 1973 the productivity of the American worker increased by an astounding 56.7 percent and wages followed closely be- hind, rising 53.1 percent. From 1973 through 2016, though productivity rose another 73.7 percent, hourly pay rose just 12.5 percent. How do we reverse this daunting trend and spur widely-shared growth?

Conservatives in Washington, D.C. argue that only doubling down on tax policy, but it is really an issue of power. The problem is not a short- term fiscal constraint. Despite massive reductions in top tax rates failing to produce middle class wage growth over the past 40 years, conservatives say it must be the answer now. But if the marginal tax income rate down from 70 percent in 1980 to 36.6 percent today did not unleash broad wage growth, why would a further reduction of a few percentage points be any different?

Similarly, if unions truly are hoarding wage gains for themselves at the expense of unorganized labor, why would this not have happened shared from the private sector?

Our government continues to view wage growth through the narrow lens of tax policy, but it is really an issue of power. The problem is not a short- age of prevention, or a weakening of the channels by which workers negotiate for a fair share of the economic growth they produce. The econ- omic favorable is no means a zero-sum game, but markets are two-sided affairs in which leverage matters, and for the last four decades, American workers have been steadily losing leverage. Rates of union membership have plum- mated in part due to harsh “right to work” laws around the country. The accelerating concentration of employers and the rise of non-competitive class- es and other employer-friendly contracts have limited workers’ options. At the same time, restrictive zoning laws are preventing housing expansions in booming cities, limiting workers’ ability to move in search of opportunity.

We need to look beyond the tax code to solve the long-running prob- lem of stagnant wages. While tax cuts may provide some short-term relief in some cases, they have been unable to produce marked growth in the long run. Instead, we need to rethink the power dynamics in our economy and start reversing, not embracing, the trends of the last few decades. Other- wise, the average American will continue to get stiffed.

Connor O’Brien is a School of Arts and Sciences junior majoring in eco- nomics. His column, “Policy over Politics,” runs on alternate Thursdays.

Wage growth requires changes in course

T he opioid crisis is becoming increasing- ly deadly, former Gov. Chris Christie (R.N.J.) has made it his mission to fight back against the de facto plague here in New Jer- sey. For Christie the crisis is one that hits home, as a friend of his was addicted to opioids and was ultimately killed by them in an overdose. Christie recently announced that New Jersey universities, including Rutgers, will receive $5 million to help combat the issue on college campuses. The grant was decided upon before Christie left office, and in meant to go towards funding education and reha- bilitation with regard to drug addiction in young people — a group that badly needs it. In 2014, 40 percent of all treatment admissions reported to New Jersey’s Sub- stance Abuse Monitoring Sys- tem was com- prised of people between the ages of 18 and 29.

It is clear that the aforementioned issue is present in the communi- ty here in New Brunswick, and we would be naive to state that a drug culture does not pervade part of the University’s student body.

We must do more to address drug culture

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We need to look beyond the tax code to solve the long-running problem of stagnant wages. While tax cuts may provide some short-term relief in some cases, they have been unable to produce marked growth in the long run. Instead, we need to rethink the power dynamics in our economy and start reversing, not embracing, the trends of the last few decades. Otherwise, the average American will continue to get stiffed.

Connor O’Brien is a School of Arts and Sciences junior majoring in economics. His column, “Policy over Politics,” runs on alternate Thursdays.
Progressives must take action this year, not simply protest

ALL THAT FITS

JULIA DEANGELO

I

n the eyes of many, 2017 has been defined by the roar of resistance. Re-

viving from post-election traumatcs, critics of President Donald J. Trump gath-

ered in the millions last year to voice their disapproval like clockwork. Those who

wished to defy the new administration took to the streets with signs and dissent. The protests began in the first month with the

Women’s March, then branched into oppositions against travel bans, immigra-

tion reform and climate change. Across the nation, there was a collective battle-

cry that yelled, “This Will Not Stand.”

This year began in a similar way, with millions more participating in a second

annual Women’s March just last week-

end. Again, protesters gathered to share

their vision of America. Again, celebrities

stood behind podiums to deliver political

sermons. The calendar page turned, and

2018 brought civil unrest that turned more

violent from post-election traumatics,

though it is important to note the over-

whelming need to speak out is threaded in

the DNA of Americans. We were founded

for the sake of growth and improvement. It

It continues to find ways to change the status quo

and walk streets to practice this patriotism. In 2018, they need to arm themselves with

more than self-assurance. They must go

out and vote.

What some of Trump’s critics may

not know is that November of this year

welcomes the midterm elections for Con-

gress. The nationwide vote takes place in the dead middle of Trump’s four-year

term, putting all 435 seats in the House

of Representatives and 33 out of 100

seats in the Senate up for reelection. Ac-

tion reform and climate change. Across

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exercising our freedoms of speech is as red, white and blue as

outcry to hold influence they need to act.

that do not require a physical button push and

can be sent in by mail. If you live in

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New Jersey and want to register to vote,
The Rutgers Film Co-op and New Jersey Media Arts Center will kick off their biannual New Jersey Film Festival — a month-long event showcasing up to 30 independent films — this Friday.

With every film premiering exclusively in New Jersey and conveniently being screened on the College Avenue campus, the festival is an ideal cultural experience for Rutgers cinephiles craving exclusive screenings of films that are being exclusively premiered in our state, they also get the added benefit of meeting with the filmmakers themselves and with critics, scholars and media art professionals who are invited to speak at the screenings or to hold workshops, seminars and lectures," Nigrin said in an interview with The Daily Targum.

A variety of films are scheduled to be screened opening night, with genres ranging from thriller to animation. Written and directed by student filmmaker Tiger Ji, Nigrin predicts the feature film "Pluto" will resonate with college students due to its relatable cast and coming-of-age plot.

The 40-minute short film tells the story of a young man who longs to visit Pluto, as he believes it is the only destination that will offer happiness. A seemingly simple plot on the surface, the story poses a lot of questions. With its ambiguous tone and surreal nature, Nigrin describes the film to have a David Lynch quality about it, although Ji credited musician Bob Dylan as his one influence when making the film. The film can also serve as inspiration to students with dreams of a future in filmmaking, as Ji himself was a student when he created the movie and faced many obstacles as an inexperienced filmmaker. After a set designer bailed, he and his equally inexperienced producer took matters into their own hands, and Ji made the set himself with dirt, spray foam and a little paint. Described as headstrong, confident and honest by Nigrin, the filmmaker proved with “Pluto” that there’s nothing a young creative mind can’t achieve.

“I was a maniac, because at the time, I thought that if I could convince myself that making the film was a matter of life and death, then there was no way that I couldn’t do it,” Ji said. “I encourage all the people with big dreams out there to do the same.”

Another curator-suggested film that will be screened opening night is the animated film “Two Balloons,” a sweet short that tells the story of two travelers on a journey to find love. Written, directed and produced by Mark Smith of Portland, both children and adults will find the film incredibly touching, especially for being only nine minutes long.

Other opening night features include the smart and sexy “Getting Naked,” the compelling “The Lost Village” and the engaging “Starlit,” among others.

Whether you’re a student studying film, a film fanatic or simply looking for a new and different cultural experience, this on the Banks exclusive is one festival that shouldn’t be missed out on.

Tickets for students are $10, and each film will be screened in Voorhees Hall off College Ave. A full film schedule and ticket pricing for the festival can be viewed at www.njfilmfest.com.
Happy Birthday: Be careful what you share and with whom. Personal information should be kept a secret until you have all the kinds ironed out. Your ability to put persuasive pressure on others in order to get what you want will be to your advantage. Have a set goal and refuse to let your emotions interfere with what you are trying to achieve. Your numbers are 5, 9, 14, 20, 29, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you do for others might not be appreciated. Don’t let anyone take you for granted. Take care of your responsibilities before you invest your time in helping others. Don’t let an emotional matter interfere with your responsibilities. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep moving forward. Refuse to let anyone interfere with your progress. Set your goal and don’t stop until you reach your destination. Refuse to let emotional issues lead to indignant behavior. Protect and nurture important relationships. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deal with money, legal and medical matters realistically. Have a plan in place and only share it with people who are dependable. There is money to be made if you are smart with your investments. Moderation is encouraged. Simplify your life. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stroke up a friendship with someone who has something to offer you in return. A partnership will give you more time to dedicate to what you do best. Taking time to rejuvenate will be necessary. Don’t abuse your health. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Moderation will be necessary. Keep your life simple and uncomplicated. Seek for personal growth, greater understanding and meaningful interactions with others. Say “no” to excessive behavior and verbal abuse. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can pick up valuable information if you participate in networking functions, conferences or classes. Adding to your knowledge, skills and experience will result in unusual opportunities. Avoid donating or investing in something you know little about. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You’ll be offered something that sounds good in theory, but is likely to fall short when put into play. You are better off investing more time and energy into perfecting your skills and adding to your qualifications. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You’ll avoid a scene if you deal with work or personal relationship matters in a diplomatic manner. Emotional stress will lead to ill health and personal loss if you aren’t careful. Try to avoid being used or taken for granted. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You’ll have the discipline to get things done. Pull out your to-do list and start at the top. The more organized you are, the better you will feel and the more you will be able to accomplish throughout the day. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You’ll be able to make positive changes. Partnerships are favored, working alongside like-minded people will encourage success. The cause of emotional stress should be handled quickly. Walk away from toxic situations. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Help someone who has something to offer you in return. Partnerships will give you more time to dedicate to what you do best. Taking time to rejuvenate will be necessary. Don’t abuse your health. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your physical and emotional health. Listen to expert advice and find ways to alter your routine to accommodate better dietary habits and required exercise. A unique opportunity can turn into a prosperous venture. Protect your secrets and personal information. 4 stars
On Wednesday night, the Rutgers men's basketball team had the perfect opportunity to get back on track in Big Ten play, as the Scarlet Knights welcomed Nebraska to the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC).

But it wasn't the result that Rutgers wanted, as the offense sputtered once again and the team dropped its second straight loss, a 60-54 setback to the Huskers.

Junior guard Corey Sanders led the way with 14 points and two assists, while true freshman guard Geo Baker chipped in with 10 points and fifth-year senior forward and captain Deshawn Freeman notched his second straight double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Here are three observations from the frustrating loss.

**The offense is officially a serious concern**

There are times where the Knights just can't accomplish anything on offense. As a team, they shot 33.8 percent from the field, while the Huskers were 39.6 percent. Sophomore wing Issa Thiam was ice cold from behind the arc, missing all seven of his attempts from deep, which kept the offense from gaining any sort of rhythm. In Thiam's defense, he didn't take any ill-advised shots, the ball just wasn't falling, and it simply wasn't his night.

Hindsight is 20/20, but if Thiam makes just two of those, this is a completely different game that Rutgers has a very good shot to win. But it's not fair to pin the poor performance on one player. The Knights were simply very sloppy and failed to execute down the stretch. Too often they settled for bad shots, while Sanders was called for a key charge to turn the ball over with less than a minute left and a chance to get his team back into the game.

**Williams's absence continues to hurt team**

It's unlikely senior guard Mike Williams will play again this season due to injury, and each game Rutgers fans are reminded of how important he was to the team. It's cliché, but what Williams brings to the table doesn't show up on the stat sheet. He always brings a spark off the bench and seems to make a key shot in the first half to give the Knights some momentum when they desperately need it. That player just isn't there when he's not on the floor.

Additionally, in his absence, Steve Pikiell has resorted to using two players to fill his void. Senior guard Jake Dadika and sophomore forward Matt Bullock play hard when they are given the chance but simply aren't the same as Williams. Neither of them rebound like Williams does and aren't a serious threat to score the ball. That lets opposing defenses to zero in on players like Sanders and Baker, making it even more difficult for a struggling offense to score points.

**This was arguably the most frustrating loss of the season**

While losing to Nebraska — one of the hottest teams in the Big Ten — isn't necessarily an inexusable loss like Stony Brook or Hartford, Wednesday night was especially frustrating considering how many times Rutgers had a chance to get back in the game and couldn't execute. With 54 seconds left in the game and the Huskers clinging to a 54-52 lead, their best player in James Palmer Jr. missed a 3-pointer. Despite the Knights being one of the best rebounding teams in the country, it was Nebraska who grabbed the miss and gave itself another possession. The Huskers called a timeout and Glynn Watson Jr. beat the shot clock with a driving layup to put his team back up by 4 points with just 29 seconds left.

If Rutgers had gotten that rebound, which it seemingly always does, the team wouldn't have had a shot to either tie or take the lead with less than a minute left and put itself in a very good position to win. Instead, Sanders drove to the hoop and had his layup blocked and despite getting the ball back off of an offensive rebound, was called for a charge that sent Nebraska to the free throw line, where it would go on to put the game away.

For updates on the Rutgers men's basketball team, follow @GriffinWhitmer and @TargumSports on Twitter. 
INVITATIONAL

Rutgers will face 11 other teams this weekend, including host school Columbia

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200-meter (21.62) and 400-meter (47.45). Following close behind in the 200-meter was junior Zo Aris with a season-best time of 22.04 to put him in second place.

Additionally, freshman hurdler Boaz Madeus ran a time of 48.80 to place fourth in the 400-meter, while the 60-meter hurdles saw freshman Edwyn Pierre run a 8.38-second finish, receiving the runner-up position.

Distance-running sophomore Sean Martinetz and freshman Billy Hill paced Rutgers in the 800-meter by placing fourth and fifth, respectively. Posting a ninth-place finish in the mile was sophomore Cole Pschun-der with a time of 4:17.86. The 3,000-meter saw junior Connor Murphy run in the middle of the field to record a 15th-place finish, out of 38 runners, with a time of 8:40 flat.

The field events were dominated by sophomore Patrick Warren, freshman Ja’Quan Mial and junior Jairus Paul.

Knights shoot 34 percent from field, 17 percent from 3 in bad loss to Cornhuskers

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Copeland, who had no trouble finding a rhythm early on, combining for 22 of the Huskers 27 first-half points. The guard ended the night with 16 points, six rebounds and four assists.

Copeland broke out in the second half, finishing the night with 23 points on a 9-for-15 line from the field. The 6-foot-9-inch Georgetown transfer found success inside and outside, going 3-of-5 from deep while re-maining a strong presence in the paint, contributing to Nebraska’s 24 points in the paint Wednesday night.

Rutgers tried to match that presence inside and succeeded somewhat, with 30 points in the paint, both through guard play and the frontcourt.

“We’re trying to do that now ... we’re trying to get the ball a little closer to the rim,” Pikiell said. “And we can rebound. We had a great rebounding night ... and that’s partly why, more guys around the basket. When the 3’s not going in, and it was one of those nights, I told the guys at halftime, ‘we’re just gonna drive it and get it up on that rim.’ ”

Though admittedly a low bar to pass, the Knights moved the ball around much better than they did the previous game, abandoning the limiting iso-of-fense they embodied in the loss to Michigan on the road last time out.

Everybody was involved on offense — even if the point to-tals do not show that — with Rutgers not settling for lobs across the perimeter for 25 sec-onds on possessions, a playstyle the team has resorted to in numerous games throughout the season.

One player who benefitted from that was fifth-year senior forward Deshawn Freeman — who primarily lives out of the post and as an outlet for drivers on de-fense — who collected 10 points Wednesday night.

Junior guard Corey Sanders and freshman guard Geo Baker also dipped into double-digits, with 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Sanders shot 6-of-17 on the night, doing most of his work on drives to the rim, while Baker was the home side’s main contributor on the outside, going 2-of-3 from beyond the arc, the only Knight to make a three-pointer.

The team shot 17 percent (2-of-17) from deep Wednesday night, much of that due to an uncharacteristically cold game from sophomore guard Issa Thiam, who came into the game shooting 42 percent from 3. The Senegal native finished the night with an 0-of-7 line from outside the perimeter just a week after lighting up Iowa from down-town, in ways a microcosm of Rutgers’ wavering shooting form throughout the season.

The up-and-down nature of the Knights’ 2017-2018 cam-paign can be summed up simply at this point — when they shoot well, they win. Their defense has not been enough to prop-el them over competitive Big Ten sides, on account of their shooting showing up in far too few games.

“We gotta score,” Pikiell said. “We’re not the greatest scoring team to begin with, but when we have our nights and we’re mak-ing shots, we can beat anybody.”

After fouling on his first two attempts in the triple jump at the Penn 8-Team Select, sophomore Tobi Tella decided not to jump again to prevent injury.

For updates on the Rutgers men’s basketball team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

Junior guard Corey Sanders gets set to takeoff in the paint for Rutgers in the team’s 60-54 loss to Nebraska. Sanders led the Knights in scoring with 14 points but struggled from the field, shooting 35 percent from the floor on the night. TOM BONIELLO

For updates on the Rutgers men’s track and field team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.

The field events were dominated by sophomore Patrick Warren, freshman Ja’Quan Mial and junior Jairus Paul.

Rutgers will compete at the Dr. Sander Invitational from Jan. 26-27, with the Columbia Challenge taking place on Saturday.

Knights shoot 34 percent from field, 17 percent from 3 in bad loss to Cornhuskers

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Rutgers University—New Brunswick
Thursday, January 25, 2018
Online at dailytargum.com

SPORTS

Quote of the Day
“‘We gotta score. We’re not the greatest scoring team to begin with, but when we have our nights and we’re making shots, we can beat anybody.’”
— Men’s basketball head coach Steve Pikiell

Men’s basketball Nebraska 60, Rutgers 54

Rough shooting night leads to loss for RU

Jon Spilletti
Sports Editor

The final minute almost called for a repeat of last year’s heroics, but the Rutgers men’s basketball team could not pull another game-winner out against Nebraska Wednesday night.

In place of a game-winner was the Scarlet Knights (12-10, 2-7) narrowly falling to the Cornhuskers (15-9, 6-4) at the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC), 60-54.

“They were a couple possessions better than us tonight,” said head coach Steve Pikiell. “But 20 offensive rebounds, I thought we fought, I thought we really played hard. I thought our gameplan was good. Just a few possessions, needed a couple timely baskets.”

What was expected to be a game of good defense and bad offense was exactly that, despite both sides picking up the pace in the second half. Not a novelty in Knights games this season, it was a poor-shooting affair between two of the worst scoring offenses in the conference, buoyed by strong defense on both ends.

But Nebraska pulling out the win was ultimately a matter of Rutgers’ defense being unable to contain James Palmer Jr. and Isaac. Sixth-year senior Deshawn Freeman shooting one of his 10 shots on the night against the Cornhuskers. Freeman was arguably the best Knight on the floor in the loss, securing his second straight double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Junior jumper Jairus Paul has finished at the runner-up position for the triple jump title in the past two invitationals for Rutgers.

Paul last produced 14.42 and 14.24-meter jumps at the Penn 8-Team Select.

Jeffrey Gomez / Associate Photo Editor / April 2017

JaCI COCHRANE, sophomore on the tennis team, was named Big Ten athlete of the week on Wednesday. Cochrane went 4-0 in singles play and 2-1 in doubles play in last Sunday’s season opener at the NIT Invitational in Newark, N.J.

Men’s track and field Dr. Sander Invitational, tomorrow, all day

Alex Fabugais-Inaba
Staff Writer

This weekend, the Rutgers men’s track and field team will venture back to the Armory for the 18th annual Armory Track Invitational. The Scarlet Knights have made their mark at the first invites of the season by staying consistent in times and capturing event title wins.

Also taking part in the invite are Villanova and Penn, who Rutgers competed against a week ago at the Penn 8-Team Select.

Renamed the Dr. Sander Invitational after The Armory Foundation’s former president Dr. Norbert Sander, the Knights will go against other collegiate track and field teams, such as Duke, Missouri, Connecticut, Albany, St. John’s, Brigham Young, Oregon, Big Ten foe Wisconsin and host, the Columbia Lions. The Columbia Challenge on Saturday will serve as part of the Dr. Sander Invite.

At the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex last weekend, the Penn 8-Team Select served as the team’s last competition, coming home with five event title wins.

For his second straight competition, freshman sprinter Taj Burgess captured both...