

# **NEW ERA IN MIDEAST**

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SPOKE AT A SUMMIT ON GAZA'S FUTURE, CALLING FOR A NEW ERA OF HARMONY AND CELEBRATING A U.S.-BROKERED CEASEFIRE WITH HAMAS. B1



**COLLEGE FOOTBALL** 

# What is Penn State looking for in a new coach?



Penn State interim head coach Terry Smith "absolutely" could be considered a candidate for James Franklin's permanent replacement, according to Athletic Director Pat Kraft. Photos by Joe Hermitt, PennLive

The athletic director says the next coach must be an "elite motivator."

### Johnny McGonigal

jmcgonigal@pennlive.com

Less than 24 hours after firing James Franklin, Penn State Athletic Director Pat Kraft met with reporters on Monday afternoon to explain the decision and vision for what comes next. Here are our takeaways from Kraft's news conference following Franklin's Sunday dismissal amid a stunning three-game losing skid.

#### What is Kraft looking for in a new head coach?

Kraft, in a lengthy opening statement, expressed gratitude for the 11-plus years Franklin served as Penn State's head coach. But he also spun it forward, focusing on what the Nittany Lions will be looking for when Kraft and Penn State's brass conducts a national search.

"Our next coach will be someone who embodies everything Penn State stands for," Kraft said. "Integrity. Accountability. Toughness. Humility. And an elite motivator. We'll find a coach who can achieve excellence at the highest level, doing it with confidence and conviction. Recruiting will always be a pillar here. We want someone who will attract elite talent, retain players in the NIL era and make Penn State a destination."

SEE COLLEGE FOOTBALL, A6



Penn State Athletic Director Pat Kraft describes a "very difficult" 48 hours leading up to James Franklin's firing and emphasizes that his decision was not strictly tied to the Nittany Lions' three-game losing streak.

### **RELATED COVERAGE**

Commentary: Allar's college career meets a sad, unfulfilled end. C1

Commentary: Penn State fans should be careful what they wish for with Franklin's firing. C1

### **Commentary:** James Franklin's legacy is good, but not good enough.



Johnny McGonigal jmcgonigal@pennlive.com

The lasting image of James Franklin as Penn State's head coach was a man coming to grips with the inevitable.

After Saturday's defeat to Northwestern, the Lions' third straight in a season that started with so much hope, Franklin walked through the iron gates of the Beaver Stadium south tunnel and looked up at a student section booing him.

Franklin seemed to take it all in before proceeding through a throng of fans chanting for him to be fired. Franklin hugged his family, addressed a locker room at a loss and sat at the media room dais for the final time. Franklin was unable to answer a straight-forward question if he wanted to remain at Penn State — or if it would be in everyone's best interests.

Franklin deflected his response to the hurting players in the locker room and the need to "get to work."

Penn State wasn't left much of a choice. Anyone with a set of eyes and sensibility knew this marriage could not continue.

And so on Sunday, Franklin was fired by Penn State, ending a nearly 12-year tenure that will be remembered for what it was: good, but not good enough. **SEE COMMENTARY, A7** 

STATE CAPITOL

# The mysterious 'rules' room is where big decisions happen

Powerful committees that make million-dollar decisions meet in a small, crowded room at the Capitol with no option for livestream.

Tirzah Christopher

tchristopher@pennlive.com

Tucked inside the Capitol behind two layers of security is a small room where big decisions affecting all Pennsylvanians are made.

The Senate "rules room" is an ornate space about the size of a pickleball court, with mahogany paneling and a gold leaf coffered ceiling, where time is kept by a historic grandfather clock and portraits of long ago leaders look down on present day lawmakers.

It's where leaders gather to put final touches on major pieces of legislation, like the state budget, ahead of final votes.

You might say, it's the room where it happens — except the public has no idea what's actually happening inside because there's no livestreaming.

Committee meetings are open to the public, but they are often announced just minutes before they begin, sending lawmakers, their staff, lobbyists and reporters flocking to the room or waiting at the entrance to hear what's being discussed.

Brad Bumsted, a longtime Capitol reporter, remembers his first time in the room in 1983 and how finding space has always been a struggle.

"I wasn't always lucky to get a good seat," Bumsted said. "Because you got people sort of stumbling over each other and elbowing, getting in front of you and you know, it was difficult."

The room fills quickly: a massive table fills the center, with rolling chairs placed around it for committee members. Other attendees sit in chairs lined along the walls, crowd into corners or stand in the narrow aisles between the chairs.

Experts and some lawmakers say the lack of a virtual option for public meetings reduces transparency, leaving some of the SEE STATE CAPITOL, A5

**BUSINESS** 

### **Holiday hiring**

Retailers show caution about hiring for seasonal jobs. **B6** 

FOOD

### New pizza place

Bacco Pizzeria arrives in Hershey, and an ice cream shop opens. **D3** 

Business, B6 Classified/Public Notices, C6 Comics, D5 Food, D1 Local & State, A2 Nation & World, B1 Obituaries, B4 Opinion, B7 Sports, C1 Weather, B8 Volume 184, Issue 82





Offer Valid on Potomac and Imperial LS Models. 4 Window Minimum. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Excludes Labor. Financing offers a no payment - no interest feature (during the "promotional period") on your purchase at an APR of 17.99%. No finance charges will accrue on your account during the promotional period, as set forth in your Truth in Lending Disclosures, and you will not have to pay any finance charges. You may also prepay your account at any time without penalty. Financing is subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. Normal late charges apply once the promotional period has ended. MD MHIC # 124358, VA # 2705178069, DC # 420212000037, Delaware # 2013601804, PA # 104611, MA HIC # 197968, NJ # 13VH07997100, RI RIGL #44067, KS # 9841242, CT HIC # 0661044, WA # WINDONL77IPW, OR #249065 RI RIGL #44067