

Spring 2020 Newsletter

2019-2020 Basketball Season in Review

The 50-year anniversary of basketball at Pitt-Greensburg produced a season to remember. The 2019-2020 men's basketball team finished its season with a 20-6 record, setting or tying all-time records for season-winning percentage (.769), conference record (16-4), conference-winning percentage (.800), home record at Chambers Field House (12-1), and home-winning percentage (.923). The team's 20 wins are the second highest win total in Pitt-Greensburg history. The Pitt-Greensburg basketball family was treated to thrilling, last-second wins against Penn State Behrend, Franciscan University, Hilbert College, and Mount Aloysius College as well as dominant performances in the other victories. The thrilling win against Penn State Behrend took place on the same day as the men's basketball alumni reunion recognition game and before 35 former Pitt-Greensburg players who returned home for the festivities. The 2019-2020 men's basketball team finished in second place in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC) and earned a bye in the first round of the post-season tournament. The season ended with a 68-73 second-round tournament loss to Penn State Behrend.

In addition to the team accomplishments this season, the 2019-2020 Bobcats garnered individual honors placing three players on the AMCC all-conference teams. Junior point guard Matt Johnson was named as a first team selection, Cam Siegfried was named to the second team, and JoJo France was selected to the third team. Pitt-Greensburg Head Coach Brody Jackson, in his third year, was selected as the AMCC Coach of the Year. Coach Jackson congratulated and shared this highest honor with the members of his coaching staff.



Top Row (l-r):
Head coach Brody Jackson, 2019-2020 men's team; Matt Johnson

Bottom Row (l-r):
JoJo France, 2019-2020 seniors, Cam Siegfried

SEIGFREID BECOMES 14TH PLAYER TO SCORE 1,000 CAREER POINTS

One of the things Cam Seigfreid wanted to do while playing basketball at Pitt-Greensburg was to make memories. Between February 8 and February 15, Cam made a few memories for himself and his teammates. When the game against Medaille began, Cam knew that he was close to scoring his 1,000th point and that his team was in a battle for the conference title. He didn't want one goal to overshadow the other, and as it turned out, there was no problem. The Bobcats won the opening jump ball, and Cam took his spot on the left wing and got the ball. He was open, and it was a three and swoosh. With that shot, he became the 14th player in Pitt-Greensburg history to score 1,000 points. He



could then focus on defeating Medaille to stay in the race for first place in the conference.



Cam's second career memory came one week later when the team won their 20th game of the season. The 2019-2020 team became only the second team in the history of the men's basketball program to win 20 games in a single season. The other team to accomplish this was the 1999-2000 team. Both the 2019-2020 and 1999-2000 teams mean a

great deal to Cam because of their successes. When he was recruited, he recalls seeing the list of Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball leading scorers and felt that he would never be on it. Cam knew a few players on the list including Jerrell Figueroa, who helped him with workouts and mentored him. When he reached this career achievement, Cam was honored to take his place alongside Jerrell and the others.



As an incoming student, his goals were to earn a degree from Pitt and to win a championship. Cam is currently an honor student, and as he looks forward to graduating next year, the MBAC wishes him the best of luck on achieving both goals.

MBAC TOSSLE CAP GIVEAWAY

On January 25, 2020, the MBAC sponsored its second Gold Rush Day. Approximately 70 embroidered tossle caps were distributed to the student fans as they came into the game. The MBAC planned this event to pack the stands to cheer on the Bobcats. The plan worked as the men's team defeated the team from Hilbert College by a score of 84-81.



- Come to the Men's Basketball Game January 25th
 - Bring Student ID
- ...another MBAC Sponsored event

LADY BOBCATS HAD THE HEART OF A LION

Unity, pride, determination, and grit are the trademark qualities that defined the women's Bobcat basketball in the 2019-2020 season. It was evident from the beginning of the season that this group was on a mission to become one of the top teams in the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference (AMCC). Head Coach Hayley Schaeztle and Assistant Coach Kelsey Oddis would blend team defense, rebounding, a continuity offense, and a never-say-die mindset to win more conference games than any team in a decade. The team finished the season with a record of 17-10 overall and 14-6 in the conference. These young Bobcats reached the conference tournament's semi-final round by defeating Penn State Behrend before bowing out of the tournament when they lost to the eventual champions, La Roche.



"I am so proud of our team! This season's success was the direct result of a group of young women coming together and settling for nothing less than their best efforts daily," Schaeztle said of the team's efforts this season.

The women can take pride in their accomplishments this year, and this year's success shows promise for the future. With only Colleen Murphy graduating, most of the starting squad and front-line reserves will be returning, including upperclassmen Nadege Durand, Maddie Coddington, Cat Gollighugh, Maddie Sitler, Shaquoa McCray, and Sidney McCully. This year's freshmen, including Lee Ann Harris, Lizzie

Penrose, Ashley Barker, and Victoria Foster, along with any new recruits, will give Schaeztle the most experienced group she has had during her tenure.

Like the men's team, individual Bobcats were honored at the end of the season by their peers. Nadege Durand was named first-team all-conference in the AMCC for the second year in a row, and freshman Shaquoa McCray garnered third-team All-AMCC honors in her first year as a Bobcat. Schaeztle was named Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in the AMCC.



MBAC GOES DIGITAL AND STAY UPDATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Given the current situation with COVID-19, the MBAC will only publish an online newsletter. We hope you enjoy this mobile-friendly and easy-to-print format.

Keep informed with Pitt-Greensburg's COVID-19 updates at <https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/news/covid-19-updates>.

Stay updated with the Pittsburgh campus COVID-19 updates at <https://www.emergency.pitt.edu/covid-19>.

JACKSON RECOGNIZES STAFF

Shortly after being named AMCC Coach of the Year by his peers, Pitt-Greensburg Head Coach Brody Jackson quickly recognized his staff with a plaque. Brody is supported by assistant coaches Kenny Johnson, Craig Hallman, and Harry

Bowser '72. This acknowledgement is another way in which Brody is building a positive culture on and off the court and creating a sense of family among the team, staff, alumni, and campus community.



SENIORS SHARE MEMORIES



“Beating Penn State Behrend at home this year.”
— *Nate Burt '20*

Nate credits Kyle Bondi '19 as the teammate who impacted him the most by teaching him how to improve his work ethic and overall attitude.

“Staying in hotel rooms on away trips.”
— *Mason Eddinger '20*

Mason believes the seniors he came in with had the most impact, and through the good and the bad, they made playing basketball at Pitt-Greensburg the best time ever.



“Beating Penn State Behrend this season had to take the top spot on my list.”
— *Brady Kingston '20*

Brady feels this team is another part of his family and has made him a better player and man, and his teammates will be his “brothers” for life.

“Late night discussions when the whole team would crowd into one hotel room and talk for hours.”

— *Jake Kitner '20*

Jake is grateful for the coaches who were involved in everything the players did and wish nothing but success for each player.



“Beating Penn State Fayette for coach Jackson’s first college win and flooding the locker room after the win.”

— *David Knox '20*

David thinks his senior classmates had the biggest impact because they grew and learned how to be a team together, and he learned many lessons thanks to the help of “his brothers” both on and off the court.

“Pulling down 22 rebounds against Mount Aloysius in my freshman year.”
— *Cody Spaid '20*

Cody credits his coaches as the most influential people on campus for him and thanks them for not only making him a better player, but also a better person off the court.



“When I look back, I recall my experience with my teammates and always having a good time with my brothers.”

— *Isaiah Zeise '20*

Isaiah states that both his father and Pastor Tim have taught him many lifelong lessons with the most important being that he should always keep his head up and that he’s capable of accomplishing anything.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: CLINT MULLEN '05

In the '04-'05 basketball season, the Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball team defeated arch-rival Penn State Behrend and won the AMCC regular-season championship. Clint Mullen '02 was a vital part of that team. Clint came to Pitt-Greensburg from Greater Latrobe Senior High School and spent three seasons with the Bobcats. He remains a top-10 school leader in individual season field goal percentage.



Clint received his BA in history from Pitt-Greensburg and completed his education degree at St. Vincent College. Today, he teaches U.S. Culture and Social Studies in the Ligonier Valley School District. Clint spends his leisure time at the gym or in the Pennsylvania countryside, enjoying hunting and fishing. Clint, his wife Lauren, and his two children reside in Latrobe, PA.

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN C. HUNTER

PITT-GREENSBURG'S FIRST MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

John C. Hunter, the first men's basketball coach at Pitt-Greensburg passed away on March 19, 2020. The initial, informal, exploratory basketball program at Pitt-Greensburg in the winter of 1969 was the result of a collaboration between former Pitt-Greensburg President Albert G. Smith and Coach Hunter, the school's physical education instructor.



These initial efforts by Smith and Hunter resulted in the establishment of a four-game schedule involving Pitt-Greensburg, Pitt-Titusville, and Penn State Fayette. The success of the unofficial basketball program resulted in the establishment of Pitt-Greensburg's first official basketball program in November 1969. Hunter remained at Pitt-Greensburg until 1974. The MBAC salutes him!

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
COTINUED SUPPORT!**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET
INVOLVED WITH OR OBTAIN
MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MBAC,
PLEASE CONTACT
HARRY BOWSER AT
HARRYB@ZOOMINTERNET.NET.

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



Go Bobcats!



Grandpa that's it. The season and this team is done. Well buddy it was a great season. But no, they will be a team for the rest of their lives.

art - R. Hardway 3/20

COACH'S CORNER



What a crazy time we are living in. Instead of dwelling on the frustrating and negative times, I want to focus on the positives. Each member of our basketball program wore wrist bands with the word “ATTITUDE” on them. The coaching staff preached about having a positive attitude and not getting worked up with things that they couldn’t control. I’m going to practice what I preach.

I get to wake up every morning and still work. I get to spend time with my new co-worker (my girlfriend Mel) and have even enjoyed getting out of the house to take a daily walk. There is no doubt that things are different, but we have been flexible and realize that the main thing is staying healthy and trying to get things back to normal as soon as we can.

This past season was an absolute blessing. The group of guys earned it with all of their hard work and sacrifices that they made. We were supposed to be having a team banquet around this time to celebrate all of our accomplishments. I know this group is making “No excuses” and getting through this stretch of time. When things get back to normal it will make it that much sweeter to all see each other and hang out one more time. Stay healthy! Stay busy. Stay positive!

THE VIEW FROM UP HERE: A REFLECTION OF THE '19-'20 SEASON

Looking back on this season with a clear mind is somewhat difficult, it always will be. In a lot of ways, it was one the best seasons of basketball I’ve ever had and certainly the best in my time here at Pitt-Greensburg. On the other hand, I will always remember it as my last season and that isn’t a memory I’m very fond of. However, my own feelings aside, there is no denying that this year’s team has plenty of which to be proud.



Our season ended sooner than anyone of us would have hoped but it was by no means a total loss. We finished the year at 20-6 which was good for the best winning percentage (.796) in the NCAA era of Pitt-Greensburg. One thing we’ve always said during my time was “defend the den.” It started off as more of a joke than anything else, but this year it turned into a way of life for us. We only lost one game on our home floor. That’s the best home record in 14 years. We claimed second place in our conference and played in the AMCC tournament for the first time in four seasons. Coach Jackson received a much-deserved Coach of the Year title, and we placed three players (Matt Johnson, Cam Seigfreid, and JoJo France) on all-conference teams. The accolades and honors go on, but I believe we left something far more important than any record or award — a change in culture. The culture around this program has changed to one of winning and hard work, and I believe that culture shift started with the seven seniors on this team.

When we all came to this school as freshmen, Pitt-Greensburg was fresh off a conference title, and we believed that we were headed for one of our own. However, we didn’t understand the kind of commitment it took to achieve something like that, and reality hit us hard. After a one-win season and a change in coaching, many of us questioned our futures on the team. But despite it all, we decided that we would stay together and achieve our goal. After three and a half years of maturing and learning, we finally reached the level that led us to this season. We were all beside ourselves when our careers ended. But when we looked around, we realized we had taught the younger members of our team how to get better. We gave them the tools for success, and their future is bright. In short, we left our mark on the program. And at the end of the day, I guess that’s all we can really ask for.

— #55 Nate Burt '20

**Look for Nate’s column next year when he returns as an alumnus.*

