

## COACH'S CORNER



The off-season came a little earlier than everyone had hoped, but it is officially underway. The players have already been back in the gym to work on their game and in the weight room getting stronger. We are looking forward to the end of the school year and finishing on a strong note. The goal for the semester as a team is a 3.0 GPA.

This summer, we will have over ten guys staying on campus to take summer classes and work on their games. We had a great summer last year, and this year we will have almost the whole team around for the entire summer. I love their work ethic and their desire to get better.

I sometimes sound like a broken record, but I know they have the potential to be great. We will continue to tap the rock, and focus on the little things to get better. The future is bright and we are excited for the next season. Go Bobcats!

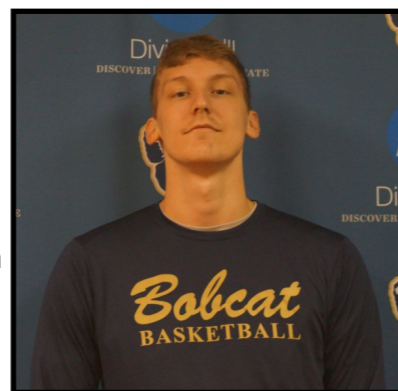
## THE VIEW FROM UP HERE: A REFLECTION OF THE '18-'19 SEASON

I sat in the locker room after our final home game of the season. Just moments ago, we had lost on a last second buzzer beater, a heart breaker. We were all absolutely stunned, and there wasn't a single player or coach there who wasn't visibly flabbergasted. Coach Jackson did again what he had done many times this season, he calmed us all down and assured us that things would be ok. "You have to love the process of becoming great every single day, no matter what, because you never know when it will love you back," he told us. Those are words that I don't think any of us will soon forget.

As disappointing of a finish as it was, it was an accurate representation of our whole season. We finished the season with a 7-18 record, underwhelming to say the least. However, nine of those 18 losses were decided by six points or less. We were in a perpetual state of being "right there" or "so close." However, I believe that we may have had to hear those words for the final time. All but one player from this team is returning next year and that means we will be led by seven seniors who will all be one-year stronger, one-year better and one-year wiser. I don't believe we will have any sort of a lack of motivation after a season like this, and I think that every single one of us is going to put the work in that we must in order to take the next step. Personally, I KNOW for a fact that I will, and it's because of the one player who won't be joining us next year.

Kyle Bondi, our only graduating senior, has certainly left his impact on this program and on the people, who are a part of it. This is especially true for me. When I first came to Pitt-Greensburg, I didn't know Kyle all that well. I saw him as an intense gym rat with whom I didn't really foresee myself being close. This all started to change my sophomore year. I began to open up to Kyle more, and he began to open himself up to me as well. Now, in my junior year, Kyle and I are roommates, and our friendship has completely evolved. I went from not really knowing Kyle, almost being intimidated by him, to being able to talk to him about almost anything. I, along with anyone else close to this program, will remember Kyle for his incredible work ethic and leadership. He will certainly leave a hole in our team when he graduates this spring, but I believe he has equipped us with the tools we need to be able to fill that very same hole.

— #55 Nathaniel Burt '20



## Spring 2019 NEWSLETTER

# Reunion/Recognition Game Set for November 2019

The MBAC proudly announces that there will be a recognition/reunion game on Saturday, November 30, 2019 when the Bobcats take on the Penn State Behrend Lions. The '19-'20 season will mark numerous milestones in athletic history at Pitt-Greensburg including the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pitt-Greensburg athletics, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the four-year program's back-to-back AMCC championship wins, and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the regular season AMCC championship.

During the '69-'70 academic year, athletics began on campus with men's basketball. It was a 2-year program, and it continued until 1974. After that year, athletics only existed on campus as intramural programs until 1996 when a full-time athletic director was hired. At this time, the first 4-year programs began. The first coach of this new basketball program was Matt Furjanic. It didn't take him long to put the Bobcats on the map. He and his teams won back-to-back championships in the '98-'99 and '99-'00. In '04-'05, the team won the regular season championship of the AMCC.



The MBAC invites back to campus all players from the Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball program for this special game at which they will be introduced and recognized. Special attention will be given to those teams celebrating milestones. This will not be an alumni game; no alumni will be asked to play.

The day will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge (Chambers Hall) with a reception for all returning players and their guests. Light refreshments will be served, and this will be a time for players to get reacquainted with old teammates and to meet players from the other eras. This time will be used to check-in players for the player introductions at the game. The MBAC hopes to have a special gift for each returning player to commemorate the day.

The game begins at 2 p.m., and all players will be introduced prior to the start of the game. We will not be expecting any of our alumni players to participate in any game that day.

After the game, the MBAC will host a social where all players can meet and share their experiences about the game they all love. The MBAC will provide food, and guests will be responsible for their beverages.

In order for our history to be a part of our future, events like these are essential. Please consider attending and allowing the camaraderie of the generations of basketball history to develop. If you think you may attend, please return the enclosed RSVP card to either of the addresses provided on the card as soon as possible.

If you know any alumni players that you think might be interested in this game, please pass along this information so we can have an event of which we can be proud and allow our numbers to grow.

## THE MBAC OFFICERS THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW: DAVE WASHBURN



The success of the men's basketball program at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg includes coaches as well as players. In particular, coach Dave Washburn has been a part of that success. Dave's athletic history began at Clarion College where he played 3 sports. His coaching career began in 1967 in Monroeville, PA. His long list of coaching stints includes years at Gateway High School and Elizabeth Forward High School, where he was the head coach. Dave came aboard with Pitt-Greensburg after a meeting with the head coach, who at the time was Matt Furjanic. As a volunteer assistant coach at Pitt-Greensburg, Dave had a hand in our first conference championships, when the team defeated both LaRoche College and Penn State Behrend.

Dave maintained his connection with Pitt-Greensburg for many more years. He held the position of assistant coach with every 4-year program head coach in Pitt-Greensburg history until he retired in 2012. Dave coached 15 years at Pitt-Greensburg. A look at the school's individual player career statistics will reveal many of Dave's recruits and team members. Today, Dave enjoys his retirement with wife Judy, their three children and nine grandchildren.



### DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANYONE IN THIS PICTURE?

**HINT:** ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS PICTURE RETURNED TO PITT-GREENSBURG THIS YEAR TO ASSUME THE DUTIES OF ATHLETIC DIRECTOR.

IF YOU RECOGNIZE SOMEONE, LET THE MBAC KNOW AT [HARRYB@ZOOMINTERNET.NET](mailto:HARRYB@ZOOMINTERNET.NET).

## On the Bench

*T. Jollie - F. Charles*



art - R. Hardway 3/19



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**REUNION/RECOGNITION GAME**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2019**

**EVENTS START AT 12:30 P.M.**

## DR. SHARON P. SMITH TO RETIRE IN JUNE 2019

In Fall 2016, a number of old friends from Pitt-Greensburg thought the time had come to create a formal men's basketball alumni club. When they approached the administration about this matter, they had to meet with two women who proved to be valuable assets in their journey, and who became friends to the club along the way. The MBAC is extremely grateful to these two people, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg President Dr. Sharon P. Smith and Alumni Engagement Officer Sheila Kudrick. Sheila took their requests for MBAC to Dr. Smith, and Dr. Smith stood by the alumni and their idea from the beginning. It is no stretch of the imagination to say that the MBAC would not exist if these two women would not have been there to help the alumni in the club's early stages. On June 30, 2019, one of these women will begin walking another path in her life. This date marks Dr. Smith's last day as President of Pitt-Greensburg and the beginning of her retirement.



Dr. Smith came to Pitt-Greensburg on July 1, 2007, and during her ten-year tenure the campus has been the center of her attention. Dr. Smith came here from National University in La Jolla, CA, where she was the

Provost. National University has been in existence since 1971 and offers adult classes on campus, on-line, and on military bases. She also spent 15 years as the Dean of the School of Business at Fordham University in New York. Both universities, in their own way, are quite different from the small liberal arts college that is Pitt-Greensburg.



Dr. Smith was attracted to the Pitt-Greensburg campus because she missed East Coast living, but most of all she missed the personal connection with the students. She knew the University would provide that contact with the human side of education with which she wanted to reconnect. Her desire for this connection was also evident when she said this would be the thing she would miss the most when retirement comes. Her love of education and respect for those

involved in the education process can be seen in a quote she shared that meant so much to her. She noted that Henry Adams, grandson of John Quincy Adams and great-grandson of John Adams, said, "A teacher touches eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops." Her "touches" on this University will be felt by the Pitt-Greensburg family for quite a while.

When asked to recall the names of some of the students she will remember, she mentioned Chad Eric Smith ('08), Brandin Adams ('18), and Scott Szypulski ('14). One student who she seemed to take a great deal of pride in was law student Emily Shaffer ('10). She was quick to point out that there were many other people who will leave lasting memories in her heart. It was her privilege to be associated with so many professors, administrators, staff members, alumni, and the whole Pitt-Greensburg family. To her, the greatest accomplishments were watching these people all around her grow and develop into confident self-assured professionals who took great pride in passing along their wisdom to all who were willing to learn. She hopes these individuals remember her for making them feel special. Her greatest honor would be knowing she helped students and faculty believe in themselves and feel confident in their abilities. She explained, "The world is constantly changing and challenging us. We will need to be better problem solvers ten years from now than we are now." She once again used a quote to illustrate her meaning noting that former NHL hockey player Wayne Gretzky said, "The challenge is not to be where the puck is, but to be where the puck is going to be."

Dr. Smith also has plans for retirement. She shared one of them which is her desire to write a book. She was not able to share a title, but she was clear on the topic. The book will focus on the role of the branch campus in higher education.

No matter what she does the MBAC wishes her well. We will remember Dr. Smith. Without her support and guidance, the dream of MBAC would have not happened as soon as it did. Thank you for giving us the confidence to pursue our dream and making us feel special since the beginning of MBAC. We wish you the best in your retirement. Let us know when your new book appears in the book stores.

