

February 2024 Newsletter - Special 20th Edition

MBAC Hosts Christmas Party

On December 17, 2023, the MBAC hosted the first players' Christmas party. The night included a gift exchange among the players in which they gave each other gag gifts and, more importantly, gifts of gratitude. Dr. Robert Gregerson joined the festivities and let the players know how important the team is to campus. Dom Domasky '00, alumnus, former player, and author/publisher, brought each player a copy of the book *In the Locker Room*. Then, the featured guest of the evening, Santa Claus, arrived accompanied by a chorus of ringing sleigh bells and a hearty "ho, ho, ho!" Santa listened to Coach Klimchock ask for a conference championship, and the players requested everything from a healthy body to a new pair of shoes. The evening concluded with Pastor Tim Lewis, who read a Christmas scripture and delivered a brief Christmas message. Then, everyone came together in a team huddle as Pastor Lewis brought the festivities to a close with a prayer.

The MBAC thanks Julia Sefcheck '99, Jodi Kraisinger, Dom Domasky '00, Erin Finley, the coaches, Andy Garsteck '74, Jim Murphy '76, and Harry Bowser '72 whose gifts, time, and efforts made this event a success.



Top: Santa's Elf Ben Thomas

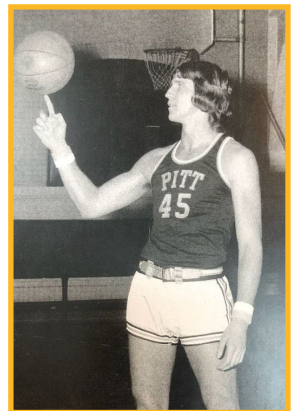
Right (l-r): Dr. Robert Gregerson, Santa Claus, and Coach Chris Klimchock were the night's three wisemen.



*Above: Christmas t-shirt the players received.
Left: The team enjoyed a visit from St. Nick.*

Paul Floder Takes His Place in Record Books

Paul Floder recently had his name added to the Pitt-Greensburg record book for points scored in a single game. While he should have been recognized years ago, records for the two-year program are difficult to find and verify. It was thanks to the efforts of MBAC members Harry Bowser '72 and Jim Murphy '76 who while doing research came across a newspaper article that allowed the group to confirm Paul's accomplishment. On December 1, 1973, Paul scored 40 points against Allegheny Community College South. That amount would be the school record for almost 25 years until Jason Trout scored 43 points in a single game. This recognition has been a long time coming, but Paul will be forever listed in the record books as one of the players with the highest single game scoring. Congratulations, Paul!



Paul Floder '77

Special 20th Edition

In this issue, MBAC members look back at their accomplishments and feature highlights from past newsletters including Rich Hardway's favorite cartoons, Where Are They Now featured alumni, and photos from past events.



MEET THE PLAYERS: SENIOR PROFILES



Will Butler (left) came to campus from Euclid, OH, where he attended Villa Angela St. Joseph High School. He is majoring in communications with a minor in sociology.

He is most proud of his positive response to the challenges of a new city, a new coach and the ability to work through various injuries.

"Adversity is nothing to me," he says.

He plans to use his experiences to pursue a coaching career.

Mikey Gaffney (right) came to Pitt-Greensburg via nearby Hempfield High School. He plans to graduate with a degree in communications.

Mikey feels very fortunate to have attended college near home and to have made so many new friends. He credits basketball with getting him through COVID and other tough times.

He looks forward to getting a job in public relations or sales while trying to coach basketball. Because he wants to pass on the positive influence the game has had on him, he also wants to coach basketball.

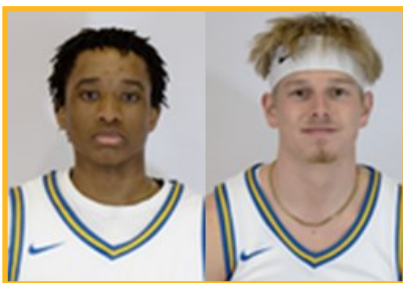


Micah Jones (left) came to the University from McKinley Tech High School in Washington, D.C. by way of McDaniel College in Winchester, MD. His major is business management.

He is thankful for the relationships he has developed along the way which will last a lifetime. He also has learned to manage his time with the demands of work, school, and basketball.

Micah would also like to acknowledge the positive influence that Dr. Woo and Dr. McCarthy had on his studies. Micah plans to attend graduate school.

ROSTER GETS BOOST FROM TWO NEW PLAYERS



Sean Murefu (left) and Mason Peck (right) stepped up to join the injury-plagued team.

The '23-'24 season got off to a rough start. Injuries had the team facing a shorthanded lineup. Senior Will Butler faced lingering shoulder problems. Transfer player Mike Bigley and freshman Gage Johnston were recovering from knee surgery. During the first week of practice, sophomore Ben Thomas went down with an ankle sprain that kept him sidelined for weeks. Practice was becoming difficult due to decreasing numbers so Coach Klimchuck put out the call for help. Two young men answered and became walk-ons to the squad.

The first new addition is Sean Murefu, a freshman, who comes to the team from Havertown, PA. He played high school ball at Church Farm School. When he heard that the coach was looking for help, he thought he would give joining the team a try. He is surprised that he has become a part of such a great group of people and is glad he can call the players his teammates. He encourages others to always keep working so they might get a chance like he did to become part of a collegiate program.

The second new player comes to the team from a little closer to home. He is freshman Mason Peck and came to Pitt-Greensburg from Taylor Alderdice in Pittsburgh. A Bradenton, FL native, he learned about the possibility of a tryout while talking to some of the players. He followed up with Coach Klimchuck, who agreed to give him a chance. Although he has only been with the team for a short time, he says it feels like he has been added to a family.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW — CAM SEIGFREID '21

Cam Seigfreid graduated in April 2021 as the seventh leading scorer of the Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball program. While Cam had another year of eligibility remaining due to COVID, he gave up that year to graduate and attend law school at Duquesne University. Cam is now in his third and final year of law school, and he will graduate in May.

If Cam had remained at Pitt-Greensburg, he could have possibly graduated as one of the men's basketball program's top five scorers. While he hesitantly admits to not having regrets, he has managed to stay involved with the game from the sidelines.

"I have had the opportunity to return to my high school and coach JV ball and work with the varsity (team). I missed playing and the competitive nature of the game, and I hoped I could have a similar impact on young player's lives that my coaches had on mine," he explained about his post-graduation basketball career.

Cam admits that there are differences between being a player and a coach.

"The biggest adjustment as a coach is learning to teach. As a coach your job is to know the game, but more importantly a coach needs to articulate his goals to his players in a way they can understand them and perform at a level to be successful. As a player, the game was more instinctual, and teaching instincts can be difficult," he notes.

From spending time with his teammates to his favorite breakfast, Cam fondly recalls his time at Pitt-Greensburg and reminisced about the things he misses.

"I miss the friendships you form in college. Your teammates became your brothers. You were with each other 24/7. We practiced together, ate meals together, had class together, and even slept in the same room. There are not many experiences that allow you to form that strong a bond," he says, "Off the court I most miss the made-to-order section of the cafeteria. Every morning, my favorite lunch lady made me a huge omelet. She became so used to me ordering the same thing that as soon as she saw me she began making it without me ordering. I ate that same breakfast all four years."

Following graduation, Cam has stayed busy. After his second year of law school, he began working at the law firm of Mears, Smith, Houser and Boyle in Greensburg. He recently accepted an offer to work there as an attorney upon graduation and passing the bar exam.

To those prospects who are considering Pitt-Greensburg, he can only share the advice he was given — "Find the place that feels like home; you are going to be there for four years. I think the college experience is much better if you are comfortable in that environment."



Cam Seigfreid '21 is coaching and attending law school.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ON THE PROWL FOR PLAYOFF SPOT

With over half the season in the books, the Lady Bobcats find themselves in the thick of the conference playoff hunt with a 5-4 conference record and a fifth place standing. The top six teams make the field, and while LaRoche and Penn State Behrend are vying for the top seed, Pitt-Greensburg has a good chance of ending up third if they finish the season strong. The Bobcats are young and have experienced some growing pains, but junior Melina Maietta has been a key player in the last two playoff runs and should provide valuable leadership



2023-2024 Women Basketball team and coaches

down the stretch. Maietta recently eclipsed the 1,000-point scoring threshold and by season's end will find herself in the school's top-ten of all time. Other double digit scorers include Tiana Moracco at 11.6 and Malina Boord at 10.3. These three players are complemented by Sarah Penrod at 9.9, Madison Scalese at 8.1, and Anna Durbin at 7.1. Moracco, Boord, and Scalese do the bulk of the work on the boards, while Maietta and Boord lead the way in assists. Keira Coleman, Grace Bradley, Kaylee George, and Tori Carr, and Jordan Bass log valuable minutes coming off the bench, giving the Bobcats an 11-player rotation. The Bobcats have four remaining home games in their quest for a playoff slot and would appreciate a nice crowd to cheer them on, so if you're looking for a little excitement to break through those winter doldrums, a trip to Chambers Hall might do the trick. Hope to see you there. Go, Bobcats!

TWENTY ISSUE RECAP: A LOOK BACK AT WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

The MBAC has grown significantly since its inception in 2015. Its members can be found at just about any event on campus as they contribute their time and talents in many ways. Through the newsletter and its events and activities, the MBAC has built a solid reputation that shows their commitment and dedication to the campus, and, in particular, to the men's basketball team. The 20th issue of the newsletter seemed a good time to look back at all that the group has accomplished.

"I can remember when this (the MBAC) was only a dream and a few friends got together hoping they could build something that could preserve the past, honor the present, and build something for the future," recalls Harry Bowser '72, one of the founding members of the MBAC.

The MBAC has two main functions. Initially, it was formed as a social organization to bring together alumni players, current players, staff, and others who share the common bond of basketball, but a second goal quickly developed. That new goal was to enhance the campus experience for the current Pitt-Greensburg players.

The MBAC operates solely on the generosity of its membership. Early on, it was the founding members who gave what was necessary to keep the club afloat. Now, the group is involved with Pitt Day of Giving, and gifts given during this event can be directed to the MBAC as a way to help support its goals. These gifts have helped to enhance both alumni and players' experiences. Through those gifts, the MBAC has:

- hosted a luncheon to honor the school's first 1,000-point scorer Jim Kubicek, recognize all of the 1,000-point scorers, and introduce Brody Jackson as the new coach.
- purchased the basketball program's first shooting machine. Spearheaded by Tom Jollie, the drive to raise money for the purchase turned into a combined effort that included the MBAC, parents, and both the men's and women's teams.
- partnered with Saint Micheal's Orthodox Church to donate a Christmas party to a Greensburg homeless shelter. Children were given gifts of clothing and toys to brighten their holiday.
- held a reunion/recognition game to honor the 50th anniversary of the campus' first athletic team, the 20th anniversary of the 1999 and 2000 back-to-back championship teams, and the 15th anniversary of the regular season champs. In partnership with the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics, the Office of Alumni Relations and the PGAA, the event included a pre-game reception, halftime introductions of alumni players, coaches, administrators, and athletic training staff, and a post-game social gathering at The Boulevard.
- distributed "Gold Rush" t-shirts and tossel caps to students to increase attendance at home games.
- supported Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter's dream of a Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Hall of Fame.
- established an end-of-the-year awards dinner for the players.
- packed and distributed turkeys with the Salvation Army in Latrobe.
- purchased new banners for the men's locker room that include all 1,000-point scorers to date as well as to showcase the championship teams.

The first newsletter was published in Fall 2016. The newsletter has grown from a printed, four-page publication to a digital, eight- to 10-page communication. It is e-mailed to more than 100 MBAC members who include alumni, current and former players and staff, parents, and social members. Providing members with campus and basketball news, the newsletter has introduced players, acknowledged the seniors' contributions, highlighted alumni, and even provided student-athlete Nate Burt an opportunity to use his writing skills in five "The View from Up Here" articles. While the newsletter has undergone changes, a few features have been around since the first issue. One such regular piece is the cartoon, a funny or heartfelt sentiment portrayed through the artwork of Rich Hardway '73 in collaboration with former officers Fred Charles '72 and Tom Jollie '73. On pages 8 and 9, Rich looks back at some of his favorite pieces.

Another regular newsletter feature is "Where are They Now?" Chosen by the executive committee, the players share their campus memories and their post-graduation lives. Before "Where are they Now?" became a regular item, four members were recognized. Mike S. Novotny, who died in the Vietnam War, and Harry Bowser, the first MBAC member to win the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association's (PGAA) Volunteer Excellence award, were featured in the first issue. In the 2016 winter issue, Dr. Bernard H. Cobetto, the team doctor for the '69-'74 teams, was highlighted. Then, Coach Matt Furjanic was featured in the Spring 2017 issue for his years on campus, his back-to-back championships, and his over 600 wins as an NCAA coach. In the Fall 2018 issue, Jeff Karaica '01 and Jim Murphy '76 were the first alumni to officially appear in "Where are they Now?" Other MBAC members who have been spotlighted are as follows: Clyde Manns '01, Coach David Washburn, Marcus Thomas '16, Myron C. Jones '98, Clint Mullen '05, Jerry Fedele '75, Jerell Figueroa '16, Al Skrabski, Tony Quatrini, Scott Winfrey '05, David Winfrey '06, Joe Mancini '16, Clint Roche '02, Jim Kubicek, Kevin Conlon '05, Dave Chesser '73, Bill McGrew, and Cam Seigfreid '21.

Continued page 5

A few MBAC members have been honored with awards from PGAA. The PGAA presents Pitt-Greensburg's most prestigious alumni awards at the Alumni Celebration Dinner. Since the first Volunteer Excellence award was presented in 2016, a total of six MBAC members (full and social members) have received it. Those awardees have included: Harry P. Bowser '72 (2016), Scott Szyplski '14 (2017), Thomas M. Jollie '73 (2019), Huong Vo '14 (2020), Dr. Christopher J. '70 and the late Barbara Luccy '70 (2021), and Anthony P. Garsteck '74 (2022). Scott Szyplski '14 received the Young Alumnus Leadership Award in 2023. The MBAC is also well represented among the Alumnus of Distinction Award recipients. Jerry Fedele '75 (2011) and Dr. Christopher J. Luccy '70 (2013) received the award prior to the formation of the MBAC. Since 2015, four social and full MBAC members have been recognized with the award, and they are: Hon. John E. Blahovec '73 (2016), Harry P. Bowser '72 (2020), Huong Vo '14 (2021), and Myron C. Jones '98 (2023). In total, the MBAC members have figured in 13 major Pitt-Greensburg awards, which is an impressive feat.

MBAC members have also been inducted into the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Hall of Fame. Overall, 14 members have been recognized. The first class was inducted on February 18, 2022, and included MBAC members Dan Swalga, Matt Furjanic, Jason Trout, and the '69-'70 men's basketball team. On February 10, 2023, the second class was inducted and Jim Kubicek, Kevin Conlon '05, and Rick Fogle were inducted.

On March 2, 2022, the MBAC hosted its annual basketball awards at The Boulevard with the hope that it will become a tradition. The first MBAC basketball award winners were given to these deserving players:

- Nose to the Grindstone Award (Gym-Rat) - Matt Johnson,
- Most Improved Award - Micah Jones,
- Scholar Athlete Award - Jaylen Williams,
- Player's Player Award - Reggie Prial, and
- Character Award - Michael Gaffney.

The Character Award was renamed after the late Thomas M. Jollie '73 and was presented by his widow, Sharon.

A year later the second MBAC Awards night was held. The Scholar Athlete award was renamed for the late Fred E. Charles, Esq. '72. His widow Denise presented it. Mike Gaffney became the first player to win the same award consecutively. Those players garnering awards that evening were:

- Most Improved Player - Octavius Hardy,
- Nose to the Grindstone Award (Gym Rat) - Micah Jones,
- Player's Player Award - Jojo France,
- Fred E. Charles Scholar Athlete Award - Connor Vehec, and
- Thomas M. Jollie Character Award - Mike Gaffney.

The loss of founding members and officers Thomas M. Jollie '72 and Fred E. Charles, Esq. '72 lead the group to reorganize. New leadership included:

- President - Andy Garsteck '74,
- Vice President - Jim Murphy '76,
- Treasurer - Gene Brisbane '74,
- Secretary - Bernie Cobetto '73,
- Artistic Design - Rich Hardway '73,
- Social Media Coordinator - Dom Domasky '00, and
- Liaison to the Alumni Association - Harry Bowser '72.

The MBAC is also involved with the PGAA. At one time, five MBAC members sat on the PGAA Board of Directors. Currently, there are three active directors who are MBAC members. They can be found attending and volunteering at numerous PGAA-sponsored events. During the Blue & Gold Celebration, the MBAC usually has a booth at the festival, where they hand out souvenirs and do outreach for both the club and the PGAA. Volunteers can also be found at the golf outing as well as other blue and gold events like the Lynch Hall Paranormal Tours and Artists Reception. This year, the MBAC sponsored a tee hole in the outing, and the sponsorship monies were donated to the PGAA's Student Emergency Fund.

The current officers are proud of what they have achieved, and they encourage younger alumni to step up and carry on the MBAC tradition of preserving the past, honoring the present, and building for the future. Even if you cannot volunteer, come back for future events, and share old memories and create new ones.

**MBAC
BY THE
NUMBERS**

SINCE 2015...

**NUMBER OF
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
SERVED**
2

**NUMBER OF
HEAD COACHES SERVED**
3

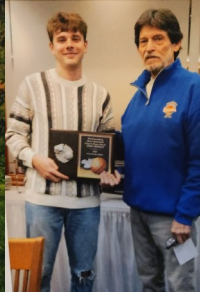
**NUMBER OF TEAMS
QUALIFIED FOR D3
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**
1

**NUMBER OF PLAYERS
WHO REACHED 1,000
PTS.**
3

**NUMBER OF
20-WIN SEASONS**
1

**NUMBER OF ALUMNI
PLAYERS ADDED TO
RECORD BOOKS**
2

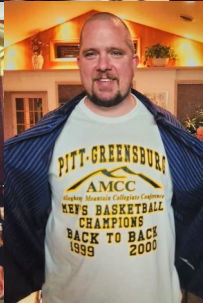
**NUMBER IN INCHES OF
TALLEST PLAYER**
85 IN. (NATE BURT 7'1")



First Annual Men's Basketball Awards at Pitt Greensburg
 March 15, 2022
 Boulevard Restaurant
 Greensburg, Pa.



MBAC SCRAPBOOK: NINE YEARS OF MEMORIES





MBAC SCRAPBOOK: NINE YEARS OF MEMORIES



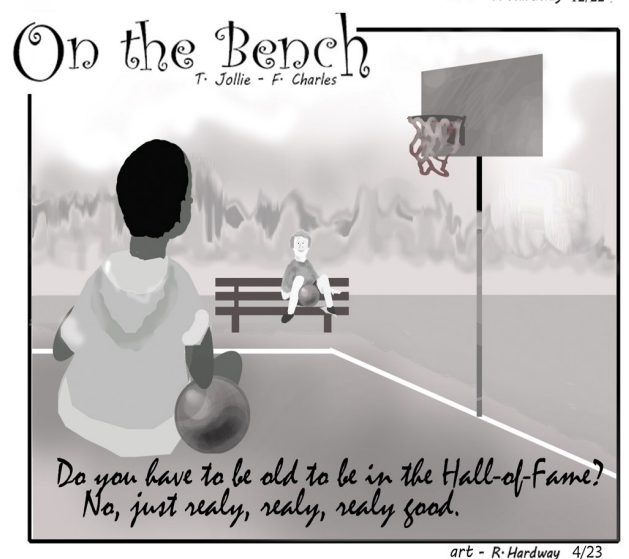
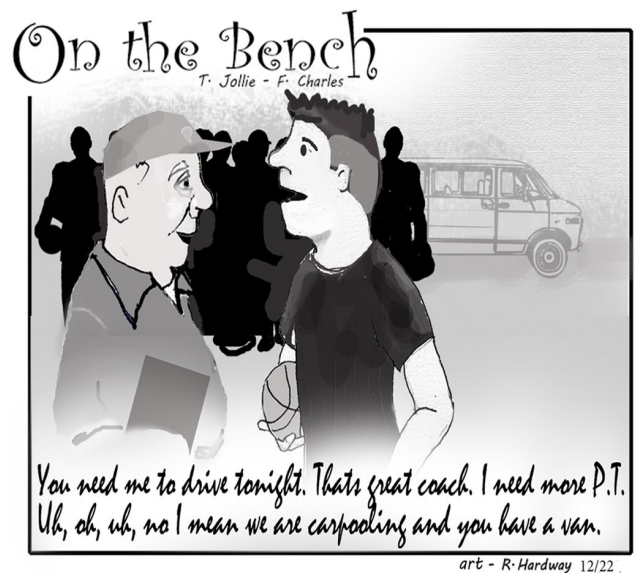
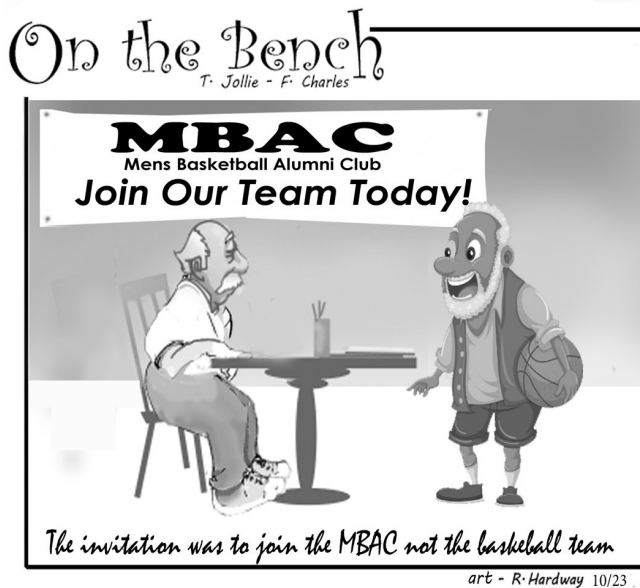
CARTOON RETROSPECTIVE: RICH HARDWAY '73 PICKS HIS FAVORITES

Back when the MBAC founders got together to form a group to support the men's basketball team, it was also decided early on to publish a newsletter. I was approached by Tom Jollie '73 and Fred Charles '72, who asked if I would create a cartoon for each issue. Being a retired art teacher and freelance artist/photographer, I thought it would be an interesting project and accepted the challenge. I decided to create frames that centered around current events and situations involving the daily life of the team and its' players and coaches.

Many of the images were intended to be humorous, but not all. Some depicted moments of reflection; while others depicted important moments in the group's life. In some images, we chuckle at ourselves; in others, we pause at off-court moments that were meaningful to us.

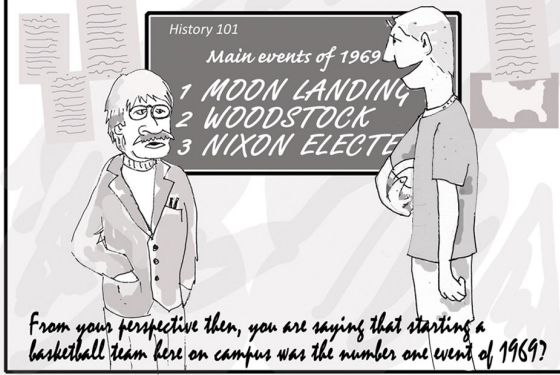
For the 20th edition, I was asked to pick from my collection of cartoons some of my favorites. Some are intended to be thoughtful, and others depict moments of loss. These chosen cartoons will also give newer members a chance to get caught up with past issues and those members who have been with MBAC from the beginning a chance to review a little history.

Hopefully, you get a chuckle or two and will look forward to seeing future editions of our newsletters and cartoons. The selections are some that I thought were some of the better cartoons so far and hope that you agree and enjoy the review.



On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



From your perspective then, you are saying that starting a basketball team here on campus was the number one event of 1969?

art - R. Hardway 8/19

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



Wow!! What a great Q.P.A. Now how about working on your other numbers like your P.P.G. and R.P.G. Then we will be talking more P.T.!!

art - R. Hardway 9/18

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



Coffee and donuts after morning practice, great idea Coach Winmore. I know. It was the first time I got to see you dunk anything!!

art - R. Hardway 11/17

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



.....enough said

art - R. Hardway 3/21

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



No, sorry. It said Player Recognition Game, not Alumni Game. You must not have seen the fine print

art - R. Hardway 1/20

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



It's difficult to predict. The powers that be here are very strong.

art - R. Hardway 11/21

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



Changing of the guard

art - R. Hardway 10/22

On the Bench

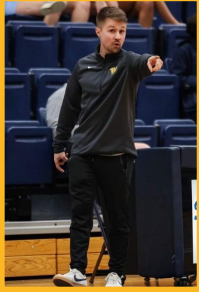
T. Jollie - F. Charles



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



Coach Klimchok

We are currently in the home stretch of our season, and I am very pleased with the way that our team has taken the approach to get better every day. We just finished up the month of January with an overall record of 6-3. We are currently 9-11 overall and 8-5 in conference play. We look to continue playing at a high level as we finish up the regular season.

I am extremely proud of how we have handled adversity this season, especially with such a young group of guys. That is a testament to their character and willingness to compete. It has been an enjoyable season so far this year on and off the court with this group, and we are making the most of every single day that we have together.

Our goal at the beginning of the season was to be playing our best basketball in February and to make a run in the AMCC tournament. That time is now, and we are looking forward to reaching those goals. Go Bobcats!

2023-2024 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM SCHEDULE

Date	Location	Opponent	W or L	Overall	Conference
Sat., Nov. 11	A	Grove City College	Lost, 70-60	0-1	
Wed., Nov. 15	H	Hiram College	Lost, 89-92	0-2	
Sat., Nov. 18	A	Mount Union	Lost, 113-79	0-3	
Mon., Nov. 20	A	St. Francis University	Lost, 77-63	Exhibition	
Sat., Nov. 25	A	Geneva	Won, 87-85	1-3	
Wed., Nov. 29	H	*PS Altoona	Lost, 89-94	1-4	0-1
Sat., Dec. 2	H	*PS Behrend	Won, 72-68	2-4	1-1
Wed., Dec. 6	A	*Carlow University	Won, 72-65	3-4	2-1
Sat., Dec. 9	A	*Alfred State College	Lost, 93-68	3-5	2-2
Sat., Dec. 16	A	Hood College	Lost, 89-66	3-6	
Wed., Dec. 20	A	Waynesburg University	Lost, 55-50	3-7	
Sun., Dec. 31	H	Lancaster Bible College	Lost, 95-75	3-8	
Wed., Jan. 3	A	*Hilbert College	Won, 75-67	4-8	3-2
Sat., Jan. 6	H	*Wells College	Won, 71-60	5-8	4-2
Wed., Jan. 10	A	*LaRoche University	Lost, 74-63	5-9	4-3
Sat., Jan. 13	H	*Pitt Bradford	Won, 71-70	6-9	5-3
Wed., Jan. 17	H	*Mt. Aloysius College	Won, 93-86	7-9	6-3
Sat., Jan. 20	A	*PS Behrend	Lost, 76-51	7-10	6-4
Wed., Jan. 24	A	*PS Altoona	Lost, 92-84	7-11	6-5
Sat., Jan. 27	H	*Alfred State College	Won, 67-52	8-11	7-5
Wed., Jan. 31	H	*Carlow University	Won, 81-63	9-11	8-5
Sat., Feb. 3	A	* Wells College	Won, 65-57	10-11	9-5
Wed., Feb. 7	H	*LaRoche University			
Sat., Feb. 10	H	* Hilbert College			
Wed., Feb. 14	A	* Mt. Aloysius College			
Sat., Feb. 17	A	*Pitt Bradford			
Tues., Feb. 20		AMCC First Round			
Fri., Feb. 23		AMCC Second Round			
Sat., Feb. 24		AMCC Finals			

* Denotes conference games