

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Two Opportunities, Two Coaches, and Two Homecomings

The summer of 2021 proved to be one of opportunity and change for former coach Brody Jackson and new coach Chris Klimchock.

First, opportunity came knocking for Brody. Manchester High School (OH) from which he graduated in 2004 with letters in football and basketball offered him the position of athletic director and boys basketball coach. The opportunity would be a homecoming. In addition to the offer, Brody and his fiancée Mel planned to marry in August. The reality of going home, working for his school, and being able to build their new life with family and friends nearby was too much to resist.

Brody had spent the last four years building a men's basketball program to be proud of at Pitt-Greensburg. Having to say goodbye to his players after sharing that time together was one of the hardest things he has ever had to do.

At the same time, Chris was looking for an opportunity to become a collegiate basketball program head coach. Chris first thought about becoming a basketball coach when his dad, Rick Klimchock, was coaching at Jeanette Junior-Senior High School. Chris enjoyed being around the players and appreciated the camaraderie and caring he saw between his dad and the players.

Raised in the area, Chris was a basketball star at Greensburg Salem High School. While he was on the team, it made school history. After graduating, Chris started his collegiate career at Edinboro University (PA). Then, he spent his last two years at Saint Vincent College (PA) where he was a two-year starter, captain, and First Team All-PAC selection during his senior season. In 2013, the Bearcats won the tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament. His first taste of coaching took place there as a student assistant.

After St. Vincent, he was off to Regis College (MA), where he spent two years as an assistant coach and earned his master's degree in Organizational and Professional Communication. He then spent five years at Penn State Behrend as an assistant coach under Dave Niland. The success they had at Behrend was a great learning experience.

On July 12, Pitt-Greensburg announced his hiring as the men's basketball team head coach. Like Brody, Chris returned to his roots for a homecoming of his own, and he hopes his friends and family will attend the games. He thinks that his knowledge and expertise from his past experiences will give the Bobcats the edge they need to win a conference championship and to hopefully make an annual trip to the D-3 tournament part of the team's schedule.

Chris anxiously waited for October 15, the first day the team could practice. He took the court with some familiar faces at his side. Alan Heter, an Edinboro teammate, will be his first assistant. On game days, he will be joined by long-time assistant coach Harry Bowser '72 and long-time coach and father Rick. Early reports are practice is running smoothly.

The MBAC wishes both Brody and Chris the best of luck and on their homecomings, new positions, and future opportunities.



Brody Jackson (left) and Chris Klimchock (right) now have one thing in common — Bobcat basketball.

MBAC WELCOMES NEW COACH

On August 18, the Men's Basketball Club (MBAC) held a special luncheon at The Boulevard in Greensburg to welcome new Men's Basketball Head Coach Chris Klimchock and his father Rick Klimchock, a coaching legend in western Pennsylvania. Present at the luncheon were President Robert Gregerson, Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter, Alumni Engagement Officer Julia Sefcheck, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Harry Bowser '70, and MBAC members.

During lunch, Chris discussed his past experiences as both a player and assistant coach. He further discussed his plans and goals for his current players both in the classroom and on the court. Rick led an informative discussion concerning the evolution of basketball and coaching over the past 25 years. Dr. Gregerson shared exciting campus updates, and Athletic Director Yetter discussed the creation of a sports hall of fame on campus.



Above: Men's Basketball Head Coach Chris Klimchock (center) with MBAC members (left to right) Rich Hardway '73, Jim Murphy '76, Fred Charles '72, Bernie Cobetto '73, and Andy Garsteck '74.



*Above: Jeromy Yetter, Chris Klimchock, and Dr. Robert Gregerson
Left: Harry Bowser, Chris Klimchock, and Rick Klimchock*



CONGRATULATIONS MR. AND MRS. JACKSON

On August 13, Melanie Patterson and Brody Jackson, former men's basketball head coach, exchanged vows to become the new Mr. & Mrs. Brody Jackson.

Mother Nature literally had the couple hustling all day to run through the raindrops. At times, the rain came down in buckets, but when it came time for the ceremony, the clouds disappeared, the sun came out, and the happy couple said, "I do."

The MBAC congratulates the newly married couple and wishes them well in their new life, new house, and new jobs. Thank you for all you did for Pitt -Greensburg!



Right: Brody and Melanie were all smiles.

ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT REVEALS PLANS FOR HALL OF FAME

The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Athletic Department announced the establishment of a Hall of Fame on Monday, August 20. The Hall of Fame will honor past and future contributors to all Pitt-Greensburg sports.

"I wanted a formal platform to celebrate the successes and achievements that our athletes have accomplished," said Jeremy Yetter, director of Athletics.

Nominations for the inaugural class were accepted from September 1 to October 15. The inaugural class will be announced in January 2022 and inducted the following month. The second class will be recognized during the Blue & Gold Celebration 2022.

The Hall of Fame will be located in the existing Fireside Lounge adjacent to the gymnasium in Chambers Hall. The existing space will be professionally renovated to reflect the dedication and family-like atmosphere they wish to continue in their athletic programs. The project is the result of the combined effort of Pitt-Greensburg alumni and staff.

Athletics have come a long way since they started on campus in 1969 with the basketball program coached by John Hunter and Gus Corso. The MBAC is excited to see the progress of this project and plan to offer support. Read more about the Hall of Fame at <https://bit.ly/pghalloffame>.



The Hall of Fame will be located in Chambers Hall.

EXPERIENCED AND TALENTED LADY BOBCATS POISED TO LEAVE THEIR MARK

Unfinished business is the theme for this year's talented and experienced women's basketball team, and, if past is prologue, their fans are in for an exciting ride. Having fallen just short of a conference title two years ago and coming off an abbreviated, but successful exhibition campaign last year, the returning players are determined to pick up where they left off and come out on top this year. Boasting a strong core of veteran players, including 1,000 point-scorer Nadege Durand, tenacious rebounder and fellow AMCC honoree Shaquoia McCray, and perennial standouts Sidney McCully and Maddie Sitler, the team is also blessed with a wealth of complimentary players at every position. Senior Alysia Lynch and junior Lee Ann Harris bring experience under the hoop, while juniors Lizzie Penrose and Ashley Barker will help out at guard. Promising sophomores Keira Coleman, Gia Scala, Melina Maietta, and Qitarah Hardison along with newcomer Abbie Benally add depth to the talented squad. Coached by Kelsey Oddis '18 and assistant Emily Nelson '16, the team is hungry and eager for the upcoming season as they prepare to meet stiff competition in the AMCC.



Women's basketball is poised for a memorable season.

No team, however, succeeds on talent alone. Focus, commitment, competitive drive, and a positive attitude are hallmarks of successful teams, and Kelsey believes this team has what it takes to do something special.

"I am fortunate to be able to coach this group. They make my job so enjoyable. They are great basketball players, students, and even better people," Kelsey states.

And having such players is no accident. Kelsey believes that successful recruiting begins with relationships, and she looks for student-athletes who will mesh well with teammates and who are willing to work toward a common goal.

This year's team may be a perfect example of this philosophy, and they enthusiastically await the opening tip-off where once again they may be joined live by parents, friends, fellow students, and community supporters. If all goes well, this could be a season to remember!

MEET THE NEW PLAYERS



Julius Cummings comes to us from Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, Cleveland, OH, where he also participated in cross country and football. He competed and played with Reggie Priah and developed a mutual friendship. That friendship is what influenced Julius to attend Pitt-Greensburg.

Julius feels his best assets on the court are seeing the whole court and reading the play as well as his defensive energy. Julius, whose transition to campus was smooth, plans to major in accounting and is looking forward to the season as well.

Josh Mentzer comes to us from Altoona High School, Altoona, PA. He came to Pitt-Greensburg because his brother, Jeremiah Crockett, is enrolled here and also is a member of the basketball team.

Josh feels his best assets on the court are his hustle and rebounding. Josh, a secondary education major, feels fortunate to have his brother on campus as that helped his transition to college life. He is excited for the season to start.

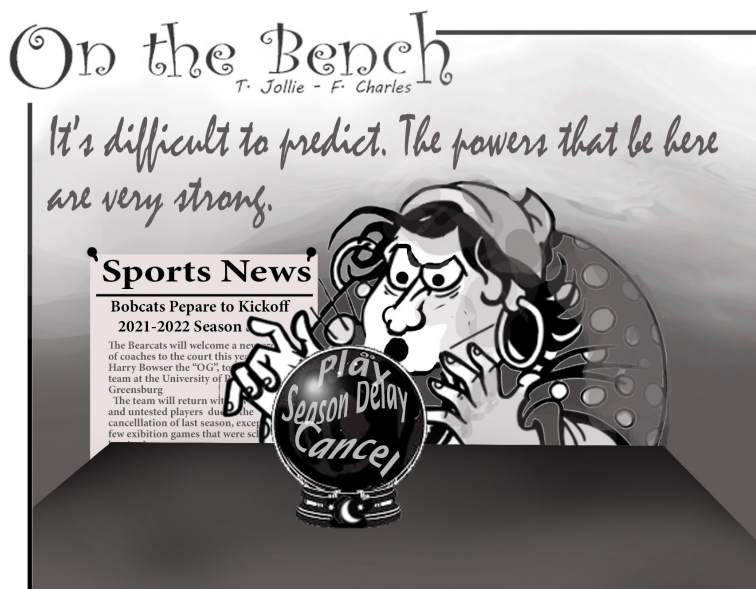


Ty Nalls comes to us from West York High School, York, PA. He was team captain and played varsity four years in addition to two years of football. Ty was attracted to Pitt-Greensburg because of the intimate campus, quality education, and a basketball team with a reputation for winning.

Ty feels his best assets on the court are hustle and being supportive of his teammates at all times. A biology major, his transition to campus life has been comfortable, and he feels at home here.

Reggie Priah hails from Cleveland, OH and Euclid High School with some time at Wright State-Lake Campus. Previously recruited by Brody Jackson, Reggie chose to attend Pitt-Greensburg this year and major in business management.

Reggie feels his best assets on the court are being vocal, hustling, and supporting his teammates. Reggie's transition to this campus was, in his words "tough" at first, but he has settled in to college life. He looks forward to the season.



art - R. Hardway 11/21

**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.

COACH'S CORNER



Thankful, fortunate, exhilarated, happy. These are just a few words that come to my mind right now when describing the feelings I had back in July when I was named head men's basketball coach at Pitt-Greensburg. I cannot describe how lucky I am to come back home and coach at such a prestigious school. The support from the Greensburg community has been absolutely incredible.

Brody Jackson did an outstanding job in building the program to what it is right now. He has put together a great team of young men to take the floor for us, and it is my job to help them further develop both on and off the court. I cannot thank Brody enough for also helping make this a smooth transition for me by answering all questions I had about the players, program, and University in general. Best of luck to Brody and his wife Mel in their future endeavors.

Our team will be built on four core values: commitment, toughness, enthusiasm, and competition. We believe that our student-athletes should be committed to performing at the best of their ability both on the court and in the classroom. Secondly, it is important to bring a certain level of toughness to practice each and every day. This does not mean always diving on the floor or taking charges (although we like that too). It means being at practice early as well as making it to the 8 a.m. class on time on the Thursday morning following a long trip to Erie on a Wednesday night. We also want you to bring a great amount of energy and enthusiasm to every aspect of your collegiate experience. We want other teams and coaches to notice how happy we are for our teammates. We need to bring that same juice every single day. Lastly, it is imperative that we compete at a high level every single day at practice and push each other to be the best that we can be. We want to practice at such a high level of intensity in practice that a game feels easier than practice. By competing in practice every day, we will make each other better players and coaches.

On the court, we are still figuring out how we want to play. We have a good mix of veteran players infused with young talent who all want to contribute to our success. Our players have bonded with each other on and off the court, which is great to see. We are looking forward to putting out a great product of basketball for all of you and cannot wait to see you at our games. Go Bobcats!

2021-2022 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
11/8/2021	Washington & Jefferson College	7:00 PM
11/12/2021	@ Lycoming College	5:00 PM
11/13/2021	@ Penn College	1:00 PM
11/17/2021	@ Chatham University	7:00 PM
11/19/2021	@ Juniata College	7:00 PM
11/20/2021	@ Juniata College Tournament	5:00/7:00 PM
11/23/2021	@ Bethany College	2:00 PM
11/27/2021	@ Malone University	7:00 PM
12/4/2021	Hilbert College	3:00 PM
12/8/2021	@ La Roche University	7:30 PM
12/18/2021	@ University of Pittsburgh Bradford	4:00 PM
12/20/2021	Franciscan University	2:00 PM
1/5/2021	@ Penn State Behrend	7:30 PM
1/8/2021	Medaille College	4:00 PM
1/12/2021	@ Mount Aloysius College	7:30 PM
1/15/2021	@ Alfred State College	3:00 PM
1/19/2021	Penn State Altoona	7:30 PM
1/19/2021	Penn State Altoona	7:30 PM

Date	Opponent	Time
1/22/2021	@ Hilbert College	3:00 PM
1/26/2021	La Roche University	7:30 PM
2/2/2021	Penn State Behrend	7:30 PM
2/5/2021	University of Pittsburgh Bradford	4:00 PM
2/9/2021	@ Penn State Altoona	7:30 PM
2/12/2021	@ Medaille College	3:00 PM
2/16/2021	Mount Aloysius College	7:30 PM
2/19/2021	Alfred State College	3:00 PM

