

January 2023 Newsletter

Hall of Fame Player Russ Grimm Visits Bobcats

On Wednesday October 5, 2022, the men's basketball team was introduced to Russ Grimm, one of the newest members of the Pitt Athletics Hall of Fame. Russ is a two-time All-American center for Pitt Football and a four-time All-Pro in the National Football League (NFL). He also played in four Super Bowls with the Washington Redskins with whom he was a three-time Super Bowl Champion. He also coached 21 years in the NFL and won another Super Bowl ring as a coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He is not only a member of the Pitt Athletics Hall of Fame, but he has also been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

He spoke to the team about accepting different roles and keeping a good attitude while always pushing yourself to be as good as you can be every day. He told of the many role changes he had to adapt to and face in his career and his personal life. He told the team to take advantage of the opportunities that were presented to them because opportunities don't always come along. The evening was enjoyed by the team, staff, and alumni.



Top: Russ Grimm (seated) with the '22-'23 Men's Basketball Team



Left: Chris Klimchock, Harry Bowser '70, Russ Grimm, Andy Garsteck '74, and Rich Hardway '73

BOBCATS BREAK RECORDS

They say records are made to be broken, and this year we have seen some changes made in the men's basketball record book.

On Saturday January 7, the Bobcats played Alfred State College, and Jojo France who scored a game high of 26 points. Those points raised his career total to 1,550 which allowed him to pass Rocco Contristano '16 and become the second all-time leading scorer in Pitt-Greensburg men's basketball history.

There was also another change made in the record book. On Sunday November 27, 2022, the Bobcats fell to Hood College. During that game, freshman Matt Marinchak made nine of 13 three-point shots to establish a new record for three-point shots made in a single game. The new mark moved him ahead of Mike Connelly '16 who held the previous mark of eight.



Senior Jojo France (left) and freshman Matt Marinchak (right) made Pitt-Greensburg basketball history. With games remaining in the season, who knows where they will finish in the record books?

Congratulations to both Jojo and Matt! There's still time to catch these two in action before the season ends. Come out and cheer them on in the team's upcoming conference matches!

SALUTING THE SENIORS

Three seniors gained an extra year of eligibility because of the cancellation of the 2020-2021 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tom Arbuckle came to Pitt-Greensburg from Indiana High School in Indiana, PA. Tom is a fifth-year player. He could have graduated in April 2022, but returned this year to have one more chance at winning an AMCC Championship.

He is majoring in business management with minors in two areas — psychology and art/architectural history. His biggest thrill so far was playing D-1 Robert Morris and being on ESPN. Tom has enjoyed all of his years at Pitt-Greensburg, but he lists his freshman and senior years as his favorites.

Tom's plan for the future is to start working in the automotive industry with his father.

Come April, Pitt-Greensburg will have to say goodbye and thank you to its recruit from Manchester High School in New Franklin, OH — Jojo France. Jojo leaves with his name scattered all through the men's basketball record books. He remembers his friendships made during his time on campus and how much fun he had playing the game he loves. In particular, he remembers his sophomore year because he feels that team was the most close knit team on which he's ever played. He also will always remember the games against the Ohio schools because of all the support he had.



His love of the game will play a part in his future too. He wants to become a graduate assistant and continue on for his master's degree while getting his feet wet in coaching.



Micah Jones came to Pitt-Greensburg from McKinley Tech High School in Washington, DC by way of McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. This is Micah's senior year, although he could return this fall for a fifth year. He plans to graduate in April with a degree in business management. He is glad he has had the opportunity to play college basketball and leave his mark on the court. His fondest memory was when he scored 20 points to help the Bobcats defeat Penn State Behrend at home. Off the court he will always remember the camaraderie developed with his teammates at the "Basketball House."

His plans are to go to graduate school to earn his MBA.

Connor Vehec is a graduate of Steel Valley High school in Munhall, PA. He is in his senior year, but he has the opportunity to play for one more year; however, he is undecided about returning for a fifth year. His major is applied mathematics, and he has applied himself quite well as evidenced by the fact he is an honor student. He is also the president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a member of the Black Student Union (BSU). Connor will always remember scoring his first points in college and the challenge he faced to come back to the team after foot surgery. He is enjoying his senior year the most because of the closeness of his teammates.



Connor hopes to pursue a career in the financial field and continue to fuel his passions in music and coaching.



Jaylen Williams may have had the most unusual journey to Pitt-Greensburg. Jaylen graduated from Standley High School in Westminster, CO, and attended Mesabi Range College in Virginia, MN, before coming to campus. When he has the chance to go home, he heads to Florida. Jaylen hopes to use his extra year due to COVID-19 to improve on his individual and team accomplishments. His favorite memory was playing in front of his dad when the team defeated LaRoche. It was such a thrill because his dad flew in from Colorado to attend the game. Off the court, he will always remember the time he spent with Coach Brody Jackson as he felt Coach Jackson was the coach who cared for him the most throughout this athletic career.

Jaylen is majoring in criminal justice with a minor in sociology. He hopes law school is in his future and would love to be a criminal defense lawyer.

MEET NEW ASSISTANT COACH BOB DAVIS

Bob Davis and Head Coach Chris Klimchock grew up together and developed basketball skills playing on the same teams at Greensburg Salem High School and Edinboro University.

They did not star together, Bob said with a chuckle, "I was a center with Chris, who was good. I didn't have to do much. I'd stand near the basket and get the rebound."

Bob is being unnecessarily self-deprecating, for he was a quality shot blocker at Edinboro, one of the best in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference during his final season. He was an inside force at 6' 7" and a talented guard who scored 1,455 points in high school.

Chris and Bob were two of the linchpins in Greensburg Salem's surge to the state Class AAA championship game, a loss to Archbishop Carroll.

Bob is in his first season as an assistant with the Pitt-Greensburg men's team, working alongside Chris. It's also Bob's first coaching gig, and he is relishing it. Bob succeeded Alan Heter, who left the assistant position to play for the fabled Harlem Globetrotters.

"It's a learning process," said Davis, a resident of Pittsburgh's South Side Slopes. "I enjoy working with kids, helping them to mature and develop. I was a very raw player coming out of high school, and we're getting some of those players."

He is still playing in adult leagues and admits that coaching is a marked transition from that.

"You see things differently as a coach, and it can be tough at times. But, you have to realize these are young kids who get upset at themselves and other players."

The Bobcats opened their season in November and December posting a 4-7 overall record. Conference play started in January, and the team is 1-1, posting a win against Alfred State and a loss against Hilbert. At this writing, the team is 5-8 overall.

Bob is upbeat despite that record. "The team has had its ups and downs, but we've been competitive. We've also had some injuries."

The new assistant is well-versed in the concept of taking care of business. He is a senior business consultant for incentives with PNC Bank. Bob enhanced his professional profile not only with that new position, but by securing a master's in business administration in management at Point Park University recently.

"It's an accelerated program, so you get a lot of stuff thrown at you at once," said Bob.

Although he still enjoys playing hoops in his early 30s, he doesn't plan to do that long term. That's why he is now coaching.

"I was looking for something I can stick with now that my knees are getting older," Bob said, laughing easily.

"I'm not sure I want to be a head coach right now. There's so much Chris has to do, and there are so many things happening right now. But I enjoy the team as well as all of the different personalities among the players and coaching staff. After practices and games, it's great to get their perspectives on how to get to where we want to be."



Bob Davis is a former teammate of Coach Klimchock.



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BASKETBALL GETS A NEW VOICE



Mikey Sullivan is the new voice of Bobcat basketball.

If you are attending Pitt-Greensburg basketball games, you are familiar with the voice of Mikey Sullivan.

A fifth-year senior, Mikey is the in-game announcer for men's basketball games at Chambers Hall Gymnasium on campus. This will be in addition to operating the scoreboard, a duty he has fulfilled since he was a freshman. He embraces these twin tasks, starting January 9 with the start of the spring semester.

"Sports has always been a thing of mine," Mikey said. "I wanted to get into anything sports-related, but was not sure I wanted to be an announcer or commentator."

Public-address commentary during home games will be among his assignments as an intern for the University's Sports Information Department. Mikey will work alongside SI director Jacob Overdorf, who oversees communications for the University's 13 athletic programs - six for men, seven for women.

This is the second year Pitt-Greensburg has had a sports information intern. Mikey was avidly interested in the position a year ago, but did not get the opportunity. That disappointment, however, didn't dissuade him from applying again this academic year.

"He was thinking of getting into this last year," Jacob recalled. "Like most college kids, he was trying to figure out everything. Now he knows this is what he wants to do. He's very outgoing, he loves sports, he is very dependable, and he's determined. He will be on the open video feed."

Unlike some interns, Mikey is in a comfort zone. He has worked the scoreboard and done game recaps, and said he has a good relationship with players on the team. An outgoing sort, Mikey looks forward to announcing games. He promises it won't be dull.

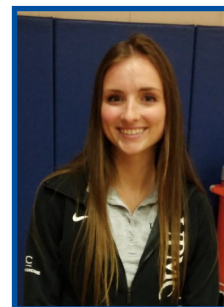
"I have to show viewers exciting commentary."

These are busy times for Mikey, who recently turned 23. He made his senior capstone presentation in mid-December, a project to which he devoted a lot of time. Mikey has two classes to complete before April graduation.

Then, there is baseball. He is a first baseman and pitcher for the Bobcats, who with his teammates gained an extra year of eligibility when the pandemic wiped out the 2020 season. The 6-foot-2, 180-pound senior throws right-handed and bats left.

He is from West Homestead and a graduate of Steel Valley High School where he played baseball and basketball. Mikey still has to graduate, but said he is investigating the job market. Two positions piqued his interest - one at a small college in Western Pennsylvania, another at an Ohio college. Sports information interests him, as does coaching. But he said he doesn't plan to apply for a job until he graduates. He is, after all, still fine-tuning his resume and making his voice heard.

ANOTHER ADDITION TO ATHLETICS PROGRAM



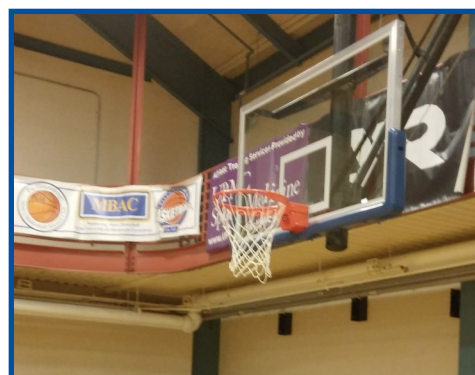
Erin Finley joins Athletics as a trainer.

Don't let that smile fool you. Erin Finley, the new athletic trainer, puts the men's basketball players to task as she rehabs them from all their injuries. She can be found behind the bench and from time to time she will take to court to assist players. Erin, a West Chester, PA native, comes to Greensburg from the Oakland campus where she earned her master's degree in athletic training. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware. In her current role, her main goal is to help the athletes stay healthy and to give them the best possible experience while they are at Pitt-Greensburg.

CHAMBERS GYM BACKBOARDS UPDATED

Have you been to a game this year? Did you notice anything different about the gym? Here's a hint. It has something to do with glass.

The side baskets now have glass backboards. This update has been on the players' and coaches' wish lists as glass backboards are preferred because they produce a better rebound surface for the ball. Check out this new addition when you come to a game.



The new glass backboards can be found on the side baskets.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW: CLINT ROCHE

Clint Roche played Bobcat basketball for four years and graduated from Pitt-Greensburg in 2002 with a BA in administration of justice. He was part of the men's basketball teams who won back-to-back AMCC conference titles in '98-'99 and '99-'00.

Today, Clint is a dedicated father of two beautiful daughters Gianna (Gia) and Cecelia (CeCe) and loving husband to wife Gabrielle. For 19 years, he has worked as an Allegheny County juvenile probation officer.

Clint's competitive fire did not stop after cutting down those championship nets. He is an avid golfer and bowler. On the course, he hit a hole-in-one on hole number five (139 yards) at Grandview Golf Club in Braddock, PA, and on the lanes he recently scored a perfect 300. He also enjoys collecting trading cards, his favorite being a perfectly-graded Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout rookie card. But, the most important thing to Clint is spending time with his family.

Clint's favorite Bobcat basketball moment was being part of the team. Clint, forever the team player, has a way of looking at the big picture and maintaining a positive attitude regardless of what challenges come his way. This is a trait he uses daily and passed on to his daughters. On the day before Father's Day in 2022, Clint and Gabrielle were hit with news that no parent wants to hear. Clint's daughter CeCe was diagnosed with kidney cancer after having some pain in her side. A visit to Pittsburgh Children's Hospital revealed a Wilms Tumor, which had engulfed her kidney. CeCe had the kidney and tumor along with her gallbladder and part of her liver removed. CeCe's been a fighter throughout and has three chemo treatments remaining. Clint notes that beside losing her hair CeCe is a typical five-year-old, and she, like her parents, has stayed positive pointing out that the good thing about losing her hair is she doesn't have to comb it every day. In support of CeCe, Clint and his family and friends have participated in the Kidney Walk and created and sold shirts with the proceeds benefitting Children's Hospital.

Clint never expected this path for his family but is very passionate about this work and the work he does with other charities. Seven years ago, he and his friends started an annual golf outing in honor of their friend Shawn Kelly who was tragically lost in a construction accident. All proceeds of this event benefit the Bereaved Siblings Camp through Pittsburgh Children's Hospital.

"Even though my family has been through some unfortunate times, we are still very lucky," concludes Clint.



Clint Roche '02 wife Gabrielle and daughters Gia and CeCe

INTERACT WITH THE MBAC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

With billions of people using and connecting daily on social media, the MBAC is becoming more active on Facebook. Dominick Domasky '00, has joined the media team and plans to make the Facebook page more interactive and current. Recent posts include the team volunteering in the community, visiting with past players, and visiting with Hall of Famer Russ Grimm. Stay tuned for more updates and Bobcat highlights.



Connect with the [MBAC Facebook page](#). Invite family and friends to follow us too!

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



You need me to drive tonight. That's great coach. I need more P.T.
Uh, oh, uh, no I mean we are carpooling and you have a van.

art - R. Hardway 12/22

PITT DAY OF GIVING 2023: MAKE A PAWS-ITIVE DIFFERENCE



Be part of the Pitt-Greensburg team and consider making a gift to the MBAC on Tuesday, February 21 for Pitt Day of Giving. Gifts to the MBAC help the group to plan and host alumni events/activities and to enhance the players' experience on campus.

Pitt Day of Giving is about participation, and a gift to the MBAC can also help Pitt-Greensburg win challenges and unlock additional monies.

Participate in these challenges to benefit campus:

- Be the 21st online Day of Giving Donor and monies will be released to the fund of your choice.
- When 125 alumni give to Pitt Day of Giving, monies will be released to the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA).
- When 150 gifts are made during the Power Hour (12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 21), monies will be released to the Student Emergency Fund.
- When 150 gifts are made to athletics or the teams, monies will be released to the team with the most donors.
- When Pitt Greensburg reaches 450 unique donors, President Gregerson will perform live or via TikTok.

To make an online gift to the MBAC, simply --

1. Scan the QR code (below) or go to <https://bit.ly/gbqgive23> from February 14-21.
2. Then, click the "give" button to access additional funding choices.
3. Select PGAA Club/Councils (MBAC) from the list.

Your offline gift may be made between Wednesday, February 1 and Thursday, February 16. Offline gifts must be received in Lynch Hall 203 by 3 p.m. on February 16. Mail your gift to: University Relations and Institutional Advancement, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Lynch Hall 203, 150 Finoli Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601. Gifts may also be dropped off at the above address. Please make checks payable to the University of Pittsburgh and note the name of the fund to which you are giving. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at pgaa@pitt.edu.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: TEAM FACED INJURIES DURING FIRST HALF OF SEASON

Coaching college basketball at any level can be a challenge; doing it with a roster depleted by injuries makes it even tougher. Pitt-Greensburg women's coach Darien Lantz knows this all too well now that she has navigated through nine games of her non-conference schedule. With her dynamic scoring duo of Melina Maietta and Sidney McCully watching from the stands, the Bobcats stumbled out of the gate against a tough slate of opponents, but gained valuable experience for players forced to step in to fill the void. The team lost the first six games, but with the return of then-all-conference starters the Bobcats won three straight games to improve to 3-6. More important, they are heading into conference play with a full head of steam.



The women's players rallied after losing their first six games this season.

Predicted to finish in the top three of the AMCC, the women will once again be vying with perennial powers LaRoche and Penn State Behrend for the league crown. Staying healthy, however, may be the key. Sharpshooter and three-point ace Maietta and the multi-talented McCully lead the way, but seniors Lizzie Penrose, Ashley Baldwin, and LeeAnn Harris complement the pair, relying on their skills and experience to help create a winning chemistry. Newcomers Kayla Hoehler (Hampton), Madison Scalese (Purchase Line), Chloe Lukondi (Norwin), Tiana Moracco (Derry), Anna Durbin (West Greene), and Katrina Semkiw (Thomas Jefferson) provide valuable support as they learn the ropes of the college game.

The women wound up their non-conference line-up with games against local rival Saint Vincent and former AMCC member Franciscan. Conference play begins in early January. Both men and women play their conference schedule on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Check the [Pitt-Greensburg Athletics webpage](https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/athletics) for home game dates. The players love fan support and it's a great reason to get out of the house and to shake off those winter doldrums!

JOIN THE PITT-GREENSBURG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

PROFESSIONAL IMPRESSIONS - MARCH 23

SENIOR SEND OFF - APRIL 28

PITT-GREENSBURG AT PNC PARK - JUNE 2

VISIT THE PGAA WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS. [HTTPS://WWW.GREENSBURG.PITT.EDU/ALUMNI](https://www.greensburg.pitt.edu/alumni)

COACH'S CORNER



Coach Klimchuck (left) with Assistant Coach Rick Klimchuck (right)

We currently hold a 5-8 record going into our post-Christmas tournament at Juniata. There have been some ups and downs to the beginning of the season, but I am pleased to see the progress being made so far by our group.

There has been good leadership exhibited by our veteran players and some strong performances by our newcomers. It is nice to see so many contributions from so many different players in the program. I am really happy with the overall development of our players on and off the court right now.

Our plan is to be playing our best basketball as we start conference play in January. I am looking forward to see how this group continues to grow throughout the remainder of the season. I think that we have the potential to do some really good things if we continue to make progress and stick together. Go Bobcats!

PITT-GREENSBURG 2022-2023 MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Home/Away	Opponent	Time	Win/Loss	Record	
					Exhibition	Conference
Tues., Nov. 8	A	Carlow University	8:00 p.m.	W	1-0	
Wed., Nov. 9	A	Robert Morris University	7:00 p.m.	L	1-1	
Sat., Nov. 12	H	Grove City College	2:00 p.m.	W	2-1	
Tues., Nov. 15	A	Hiram College	7:00 p.m.	L	2-2	
Tues., Nov. 22	A	PSU Shenango	7:30 p.m.	W	3-2	
Sat., Nov. 26	H	Geneva College	2:00 p.m.	L	3-3	
Sun., Nov. 27	H	Hood College	3:00 p.m.	L	3-4	
Wed., Dec. 7	H	Waynesburg University	7:00 p.m.	L	3-5	
Sat., Dec. 10	A	Franciscan University	4:00 p.m.	L	3-6	
Thurs., Dec. 29	A	Juniata Tournament	TBA	L	3-7	
Fri., Dec. 30	A	Juniata Tournament	TBA	W	4-7	
*Wed., Jan. 4	H	Hillbert College	1:00 p.m.	L	4-8	0-1
*Sat., Jan. 7	A	Alfred State College	1:00 p.m.	W	5-8	1-1
*Wed., Jan. 11	H	PSU Altoona	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Jan. 14	H	PSU Behrend	2:00 p.m.			
*Wed., Jan. 18	A	LaRoche	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Jan. 21	A	Univ of Pittsburgh at Bradford	2:00 p.m.			
*Wed., Jan. 25	H	Mount Aloysius	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Jan. 28	H	Alfred State College	2:00 p.m.			
*Wed., Feb. 1	H	LaRoche	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Feb. 4	A	Hillbert College	1:00 p.m.			
*Wed., Feb. 8	A	PSU Altoona	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Feb. 11	H	Univ of Pittsburgh at Bradford (Senior Day)				
*Wed., Feb. 15	A	Mount Aloysius	7:00 p.m.			
*Sat., Feb. 18	A	PSU Behrend	2:00 p.m.			

*- Denotes Conference Games

Can't make it to a game? Visit <https://pittgreensburgathletics.com/>, select men's basketball under Men's Sports, and click on schedule to see if the game is being broadcast online.