

April 2023 Newsletter

Congratulations to the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Hall Of Fame Second Class

On February 10, at a ceremony held in Wagner Dining Hall, Pitt-Greensburg welcomed the second class into its Athletics Hall of Fame. The second class included former Dean of Student Services Rick Fogle, Kevin Conlon '05, Kelsey Wilcox '10, Jim Kubichek, and the '97, '98, '99, and '00 golf teams. After welcoming addresses by Pitt-Greensburg President Robert Gregerson and Athletics Director Jeromy Yetter, each of the new inductees thanked the University for the honor given to them. The new inductees fondly remembered their days at Pitt-Greensburg and assured the approximate 125 guests gathered that their induction was an honor they cherished. The MBAC congratulates all of the inductees in the second class.



Top left: Jim Kubichek speaking about his time at Pitt-Greensburg. Top Middle: Hall of Fame inductees on a TV screen in Wagner Dining Hall. Top right: Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter, Kevin Conlon '05, and Pitt-Greensburg President Dr. Robert Gregerson. Second row left: Kelsey Wilcox '10 poses with her Hall of Fame display. Second row middle: Trophies await to be presented. Second row right: Golf alumnus Brian Rosatti speaks about his time on the team. Third row left: Rick Fogle (middle) with AD Yetter and President Robert Gregerson. Third row center: Inductees at the basketball game on Saturday, Feb. 11, Third row left: Bernie Cobetto '73 applauding inductee Jim Kubichek. Bottom: Senior athletes stop for a photo with Sports Information Director Jacob Oberdorf (third from the right).

JIM KUBICHEK: IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN



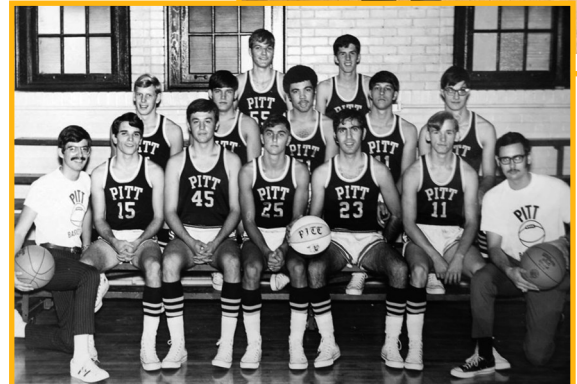
AD Jeremy Yetter (left) and Dr. Robert Gregerson (right) present Jim (middle) with his Hall Of Fame award.

Induction into the Pitt-Greensburg Hall of Fame is a well-deserved honor for Jim Kubichek. Although he is among the campus' scoring leaders, his numbers don't tell the whole story of what could have been.

After graduating from Greensburg Central Catholic High School, Jim started his career at Pitt-Greensburg in the 1970-71 season as a Panther. He was a starter his freshman year and played strong at both ends of the court, but it soon became apparent he was a shooter. And, shoot he did. Jim could hit the basket from anywhere on the court. Layups and inside shots were a given.

The long ball? Mark it up. Off the court, Jim was a quiet, friendly, and unassuming guy. But, on the court, one prayed that they didn't have to guard him. If they did, they prepared to be embarrassed.

Before the '22-'23 season, he was ranked #12 in all-time scoring for the campus' men's basketball program. That ranking is an honor in its own right, but there is more to the story. His scoring record was set before the days of the three-point shot. As a shooting guard, one can only imagine how many shots would have been behind the line. Jim was a long-ball shooter. The most impressive fact to consider is that Pitt-Greensburg was a two-year campus when he attended. He scored all of his points in only two years playing only half the years that a typical college player would play. In his two-year career, he scored 1,095 points averaging 24.9 pts per game shooting 49.8% and 80% from the line. One can only imagine the points he could have racked up in four years?



Top: Jim receives 1,000-pt. award in 2017 at MBAC reception.

Middle Top: 1970-'71 Pitt-Greensburg Men's Basketball Team

Middle Bottom: Jim (second from right) with (l-r) Bernie Cobetto '73, MBAC President Andy Garsteck '74, and Harry Bowser '72

Bottom: Jim (right) with (l-r) Kevin Conlon '05 and senior Jojo France. They are three of the four top individual game scorers.

On the Bench

T. Jollie - F. Charles



*Do you have to be old to be in the Hall-of-Fame?
No, just really good.*

art - R. Hardway 4/23

KEVIN CONLON '05 INDUCTED INTO PITT-GREENSBURG ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Kevin thanked all of his teammates in his speech.

The Athletics Hall of Fame opened its doors for the second class and welcomed Kevin Conlon '05, one of the campus' most decorated athletes. Kevin's career has stood the test of time as his name still appears in the top 10 in 12 different categories in Pitt-Greensburg's record book. He was a three-time captain and a three-time first-team All-AMCC selection. In 2005, he was named Player of the Year for the AMCC, and he was also the AMCC's Male Faculty Representative Award winner. He garnered a number of other honors including Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) South second team, National Collegiate Athletic Conference (NCCA) Great Lakes District II second team, and *ESPN The Magazine* second team.

When his days as a player were over, Kevin liked the campus so much he stuck around for a while doing a variety of things. At one time, he was the campus' sports information director. He was an assistant to women's basketball coach Carol Gelet. While in that position, Kevin had his first really strong recruit Kelsey Wilcox '10, who was also inducted as part of the

second class. At the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Kevin recounted a story about he and his wife Lindsey going to watch Kelsey play with her high school team. Kevin was impressed; Lindsey liked Kelsey, but had some questions. Kevin said with Kelsey being inducted into the Hall of Fame it proved that he was right at least once when he disagreed with his wife.

Kevin looks at his induction as validation of all the hard work and sacrifice made by so many to give him the chance to live his dream. He thanked his parents, his family, his coaches, those he worked with at Pitt Greensburg, Athletic Director Jeromy Yetter, and his friends for standing with him on his journey. Many of those he thanked were at the ceremony to celebrate with him. He hoped that future classes would include some of the men with whom he played.

"If I could go back and play one more game with my teammates, I would drop everything and go back in a second," he stated poignantly, paying tribute to his former teammates.



Top: Kevin (third from right) with (l-r) Clint Mullen '05, Ryan Stetz '06, Jon Germock '04, Coach Marcus Kahn, and Matt Russell '09.

Below: Kevin (second from left) with (l-r) wife Lindsey, Kelsey Wilcox '10, former women's coach Carol Gelet, and former women's assistant coach Andy Geter.

He also thanked the University for recognizing the players' efforts and dedication.

"I want to thank Mr. Yetter and all involved from the University for the formation of the Athletics Hall of Fame. It proves to the athletes who committed to this school, that came here, sacrificed here, studied here, learned here, and dedicated themselves to represent this University that their efforts were appreciated. It shows our University cared about us as much as we cared about it," he said in closing.

The commitment and dedication that he brought with him to be an athlete has served him well in life. He was able to rub elbows with some of the elite athletes in America as an employee of ESPN. He now has a leadership position with a medical pharmaceutical firm that serves numerous states in the eastern part of America.



Kevin's friend made this painting to commemorate his Hall of Fame induction.

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

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)

RICK FOGLE: MAKING STUDENT LIFE AND ATHLETICS HIS LIFE

When Rick Fogle found out he was being inducted into the University of Pittsburgh Greensburg Athletics Hall of Fame, he was shocked, humbled, and overjoyed.

Rick said one of the things that attracted him to Pitt-Greensburg was that it was on the cusp of transforming itself and starting to grow. While working at Pitt in 1985, Rick was told by his mentors that moving to Pitt-Greensburg could be a great experience for his career. When Rick started on campus, he was the only full-time staff member in Student Services (now Student Life & Success). Fortunately, there already was a men's basketball team at Pitt-Greensburg. Rick said the team could not have competed without the players, volunteer coaches, and support of the Student Government Association (SGA).



Rick Fogle helped build athletics on campus.

He credits former Athletics Director Dan Swalga for getting the athletic program approved in about 1995. Dan's experience as a Division I coach and his leadership qualities were instrumental in developing the athletic program. Dan and Rick believed that athletics would change Pitt-Greensburg by attracting students to campus so that they could continue to play the sport they loved. It took a lot of work, but athletics transformed Pitt-Greensburg by increasing enrollment and enhancing campus life.

Rick is grateful for the support he received from Presidents Cassell, Smith, and Gregerson as well as the Advisory Board, Academic Affairs, SGA, Business Office, Maintenance, and Admissions. It has truly been a broad-based collaborative effort to make athletics a reality.

Rick retired as Dean of Student Services on June 30, 2022. Rick is married to Amy, and they have a son, Stephen. They reside in Columbus, Ohio.

MEN'S GOLF TEAM: EVERYONE WAS ALL IN

When talking with Scott Statler one thing is evident — he has a passion for the game of golf. Scott Statler was the Pitt-Greensburg head golf coach for 12 years, and during those golden years, his team won the AMCC championship four times in a row. A four-peat is an impressive accomplishment for any college coach, but for Scott Statler it was all about the players.

Scott credits the athletes, Pitt-Greensburg, his father and God for his success. His father and PGA golf legend Martin Statler was at practice every day for the boys, his son, and the love of the game. Scott says his father helped with the technical stuff and offered his services on the house.

Scott points out the players were all determined to get better. So much so, the athletes hung out at his family's driving range working on their golf game day and night.

"I helped them a little bit, but the players had the motivation. They were vested in everything. Everyone was all-in on getting better," explains Scott.

One of the things Scott is most proud of is all the top notch courses his teams were able to play — Pinehurst, Bermuda, Saint Croix, the Virgin Islands, Myrtle Beach, Oakmont, and many more. He believed in trying to create a Division I experience at a Division III program. His dedicated players raised money by selling subs, washing cars, and running closest-to-the-pin and other contests at local courses.

Today, Scott spends his time golfing in Florida and helping his son, but he'll never forget when his team bested a national champion in a local tournament. He said the scores just kept getting better.

Scott and players from the '97, '98, '99, and '00 golf teams attended the recent Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony where they were inducted as part of the second class.



Members of the golf teams were present at the HOF induction. Featured are (front l-r) Matt Montgomery, Jim Sciabaca, Bryan Rosatti, Sean Sapatichne, and Dr. Robert Gregerson, (back l-r) AD Jeromy Yetter, Scott Statler, Bob Statler, Mike Yates.

KELSEY WILCOX '10: FIRST HALL OF FAME WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYER

As with many great athletes, it was a rare combination of natural talent, dedication, training, and a genuine love of the game that set Kelsey (Wilcox) Bradford '10 apart and led to her selection as a member of the 2023 Hall of Fame class at Pitt-Greensburg. Her basketball journey began in Dubois, PA. Kelsey's mom and dad started coaching basketball at the First Baptist Christian School so as a little girl Kelsey was constantly around the game and began to love it.

"I would not be half the basketball player I was," Kelsey reflected, "if they (Mom, Dad, and siblings) were not around to push me."

Kelsey's accomplishments are truly impressive. She is the second leading scorer (1,254 points) and leading rebounder (21 rebounds per game) in Dubois Area High School history. Recruited by Kevin Conlon, Kelsey moved on to Pitt-Greensburg where she went on to become the women's all-time leading scorer and rebounder, scoring 1,644 points and grabbing 1,183 rebounds. She was voted AMCC honorable mention in her freshman and sophomore years as well as AMCC first team and Player of the Year during her junior and senior years. Her senior year, however, put the exclamation mark on her remarkable journey. In her final year, Kelsey was ranked fifth nationally in rebounds, averaging 14.2 per game, was voted second team Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Region, second team [D3hoops.com](https://www.d3hoops.com), and second team Great Lakes region.

Kelsey credits all of her coaches. Her dad was her high school coach and though he did a great job not bringing home things that happened in practice or games, navigating the roles of daughter/player was sometimes a little challenging. Her college coaches were Carol Gelet and Anderson Geter who are two of the most amazing people she has had in her life — both selfless and generous people. Carol was dedicated to the women's program for so many years and the records show. Anderson was the assistant and was a volunteer. They taught the team so much about basketball, but also so many life lessons.

Kelsey credits Pitt-Greensburg's small classes and close relationships with professors in helping her prepare for a rewarding career as a mental health therapist at Plea School. She also spent a good time in coaching, but with the birth of her son she has taken a break from the game. Still in the Pittsburgh area, Kelsey would advise current players to enjoy every single second of the college experience as this time included some of the best days of her life. It's clear that Kelsey loves her alma mater and wishes them continued success. But, if there is one thing she would like to see Pitt-Greensburg do, it would be to get a bigger facility and an updated gym.



Kelsey (third from right) with her family.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: SEASON WRAP UP

Coach Darien Lantz's first season as head coach of the Lady Bobcats was a success by any measure. After a tough start owing to a rash of injuries that sidelined the team's key players, the team rebounded to finish 14-13 overall, 9-5 in conference play, which landed them a three-seed in the AMCC playoffs where they nearly upended higher-seeded Penn State Behrend in the tournament semifinals. Darien attributes the team's success to senior leadership, resilience, dedication, talent, and a commitment to steady improvement.

"We persevered from the beginning of the season until the very end," she reflected.

Darien was assisted by assistant coaches Kelsey Oddis and Paul Lantz. In addition to the team's success, the trio celebrated a number of team moments, individual player highlights, and conference recognitions. Sidney McCully, LeeAnn Harris, Ashley Barker, and Lizzie Penrose were honored on Senior Day. A few individual highpoints also proved memorable. Sophomore Melina Maietta broke a single-game record for most three-pointers in a single game with eight, and Sidney McCully scored her 1,000th point in a playoff game against Mount Aloysius. Finally, Melina Maietta earned Second Team All-Conference, and Sidney McCully earned Co-player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, and First Team All-Conference.

Reflecting on the departing seniors' impressive four-year run, Darien wants most of all for them to be proud of themselves, and their hard work, strong bonds, and fond memories. They are always good building blocks for a successful program, and this year's team laid a strong foundation.



The '22-'23 Women's Basketball Team

A CONVERSATION WITH ATHLETIC DIRECTOR JEROMY YETTER

Pitt-Greensburg recently celebrated the induction of the second class into the Pitt-Greensburg Athletics Hall Of Fame. MBAC President Andy Garsteck '74 had the chance to speak with AD Jeromy Yetter about the much-anticipated and growing event.

AG: *With two Hall of Fame classes inducted, was the selection process any different than the first time around in terms of number of nominees, difficulty choosing, or other aspects you as a committee considered?*

JY: The process remains unchanged, anyone can submit a nomination during the submission period. All nominations are presented to the selection committee and go through the review and selection process. It is important to remain consistent.

AG: *You have attended a number of athletic events of this type. Is there any aspect of the Pitt-Greensburg Hall of Fame that stands out in any way?*

JY: It is probably the variety of the nominees. Some are individual accomplishments and others are small and large team accomplishments. Still others are administrative type of contributions to Pitt-Greensburg Athletics at key times in the school's history. Contacting the individual inductee is usually easy, but multiple members of a team can be more challenging. Contact information can change over the years. I have found that the members of a team are still in touch with each other, the word spreads quickly that way. We make every effort to contact all members of a team. One thing I particularly enjoy is the various reactions I get when a nominee is notified. It doesn't get old.

AG: *As you begin looking forward to the third Hall of Fame class, is there anything you would like to point out?*

JY: I feel that a new tradition is being established that the campus can look forward to each year. While I am not surprised by the general acceptance and support for this endeavor, it is the breadth of that support across the campus and alumni community that is gratifying. One more thing I would like to point out is for the Hall of Fame events the committee recognized that it is productive to invite some of the current teams to the ceremony. The hope is that the experience of this tradition first hand might inspire their potential to accomplish things that may be recognized and celebrated later on — a real goal to shoot for.

SENIOR DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Day was held on Saturday, February 11. The players and their family and friends were recognized.



Connor Vehec with his parents Mark and Lisa and Coach Klimchock.

Jaylen Williams (fourth from right) with (l-r) Coach Klimchock, Jeremiah Crockett, Will Butler, Octavius Hardy, and Mike Gaffney.



Jojo France with his parents Jason and Darla and Coach Klimchock.



Coach Klimchock with Micah Jones and Micha's mother Funmi, sister Selah, and father Richard.



Tom Arbuckle with Coach Klimchock and Tom's parents Mark and Laura Arbuckle

SUGGESTIONS WANTED FOR 20TH NEWSLETTER

The MBAC is looking for help from you — the alumni — to make the 20th newsletter special. The MBAC wants to celebrate this special edition, which will be published in January 2024. What would you like to see in this issue? Plans already include a special page for the cartoons and a listing with photos of all alumni who have been featured in the "Where are they now?". If you know of any alumni you would like featured, have a player you would like interviewed, or have any other stories ideas, please contact Harry Bowser at harryb@zoominternet.net.

MBAC ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT CELEBRATES THE PLAYERS

The MBAC held its second Annual Awards Dinner on March 14 at the Boulevard Restaurant (Greensburg). After a welcome by MBAC President Andy Garsteck '74, Head Coach Chris Klimchock began the presentations when he awarded trophies of appreciation to all the seniors. The seniors receiving awards were Tom Arbuckle, Jojo France, Micah Jones, Connor Vehec, and Jaylen Williams.

The Most Improved Player Award went to Octavius Hardy. Octavius said the award helped with his confidence and showed him how his hard work did not go unnoticed. He thought his biggest improvement was in his mental approach to the game. He stopped worrying about making mistakes and just played. "Winning this will push me to want to win it again and continue to elevate my game," added Octavius.

Nose to the Grindstone Award – Gym Rat Award went to Micah Jones. Micah said, "This award validates all my hard work. It tells me all the work I have done has been noticed. It lets me believe there is no one that can stop me from being the best I can be. It will encourage me to work for other goals that I have set for myself." Before he leaves campus, Micah would like the honor of being named to the All-AMCC team.

Player's Player Award went to Jojo France. On receiving the award, Jojo said, "This award was to be given to the player that others wanted on their team. I have always wanted to be a great teammate, and this tells me that my team thought I was."

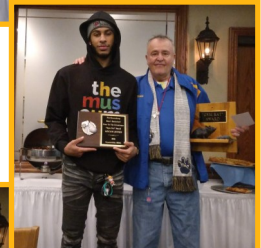
Fred E. Charles Scholar Award went to Connor Vehec and recognizes his excellence on the court and in the classroom. Connor's major is applied mathematics, and he hopes his 3.45 QPA will aid his search for a career in finance. Upon receiving the award, Connor noted how he thought athletics and academics worked together. "I think skills to succeed are universal. Hard work, dedication, perseverance, and a hunger for success are the things that helped me succeed on and off the court here," explained Connor.

Thomas M. Jollie Character Award – Michael Gaffney is a two-time winner of the award. "Winning this award has a particular importance to me because the more I learn about Tom Jollie the prouder I become. My intentions are never to seek an award for myself. My goal is to be a great teammate, a great friend, a great son while being the best player I can be. I want to have an impact on people the way others have had an impact on me," remarked Michael. The award was presented by Samantha Vinsek, the granddaughter of Tom and Sharon Jollie, and the MBAC extends a special thanks to her for representing her beloved grandfather.

The MBAC is proud of all the award recipients and congratulates them for all of their efforts.



Above: The seniors with their awards. Left: Octavius Hardy and Gene Brisbane MED '74, '79 EDUC



Above: Micha Jones and Bernie Cobetto '73 Left: Jojo France and Rich Hardway '73



Above: Connor Vehec with Westmoreland County Sheriff James Albert and Denise Charles, brother-in-law and widow, respectively, of Fred Charles.



Above: Michael Gaffney with Samantha Vinsek and Sharon Jollie, granddaughter and widow, respectively, of Tom Jollie.



L to R: Coach Chris Klimchock, Assistant Coach Rick Klimchock, and Athletic Trainer Erin Finley; MBAC President Andy Garsteck '74; Members of the team; A group of current players; Harry Bowser '72

JOJO FRANCE LEAVES MARK ON PITT-GREENSBURG

On Saturday, April 29, during Commencement, the basketball program will say farewell to Jojo France who has been a fixture on the men's team since his arrival on campus and watch as he is welcomed into the ranks of the Pitt-Greensburg Alumni Association (PGAA). He leaves campus knowing that he has left his mark on those who knew him or watched him play.

"I will miss my teammates. Their friendships are more valuable to me than any game memories," he says of his favorite moments.

Although humble about his successes, he was proud of finishing his career as the program's second all-time leading scorer and leader in three-point shots.

"I tried not to pay attention to setting records while I was playing, but it became difficult to ignore at a certain point," he reluctantly admits.

Despite those records, his biggest accomplishment was being a starter his entire career.

"It is flattering to look back now because I know I left my mark here," explains Jojo, whose future plans include graduate school as well as coaching.

The MBAC congratulates Jojo on a remarkable career.



Jojo was recognized by his teammates with the Player's Player award.

REFLECTIONS ON A RECORD SETTER



Jojo with his parents and Coach Klimchock on Senior Day.

Following Jojo's record-breaking season, his mother Darla France reflected on how he has grown as both a person and player throughout his career and his four years at Pitt-Greensburg.

She notes that Jojo is still growing, and she can only dream about his future, but she does have memories from his past.

"When he was about three-years-old, we had to set up two Little Tikes hoops in our living room because 'that is the way the game is played.' He was always shooting hoops, swinging a bat, or diving to catch the winning touchdown. He loved every minute of sports from the very beginning. It just seemed like the love of sports was part of him," Darla recalls.

Her greatest pride was the respect he received from his teammates for his hard work and leadership. Jojo had a way of finding the bright side of life. He has the ability to take something negative, learn from it, and turn it into a positive. She often found myself saying, "That's my boy!"

"On Senior Day we stood there for what seemed like a long time as they read the list of his accomplishments. I realized then that Jojo was being rewarded and recognized for all the hard work, sweat, and tears it took to get him there. Then, Jojo walked Jason and me to midcourt, and the next thing you know off he went to do what he loved doing, playing his game. No matter what the outcome would be that day, I knew he would give it everything he had. He always felt that giving the best he could give was the only way to play," she explains.

As she thinks about Jojo's future, she can see him coaching, teaching, helping young athletes enjoy the game the way he does, and enriching them with the things he has learned.

"I hope he has the same open mind and accepting attitude toward others as he does today. I hope he remains happy and laughs everyday and takes pleasure from the little things in life," she adds about her son's future.

**The MBAC thanks you for your support during
Pitt Day of Giving!**

COACH'S CORNER



Coach Klimchuck

We completed our season a few weeks ago, and I was pleased with the way we finished. We won six of our last nine games to finish with an overall record of 12-14 and a conference record of 8-6 that gave us fourth place in the conference and secured a home playoff game. Unfortunately, we lost in the quarterfinals to Penn State Behrend, a team that we had swept during the regular season. It was a tough loss, but I was proud of our guys.

I want to thank our four seniors — Tommy Arbuckle, JoJo France, Connor Vehec and Jaylen Williams — for all that they have given this program. We had incredible leadership throughout the season from those guys, and we will miss them. They all have very bright futures ahead of them in whatever they do.

Our returning guys have already been in the gym and weight room working on their game to prepare for next season. We look forward to continually making progress every single day to be the best team we can be. Thank you for all your support. Go Bobcats!

2022-2023 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM



Front row (l to r): Jaylen Williams, Tom Arbuckle, Jojo France

*Middle row (l to r): Josh Mentzer, Mike Gaffney, Ben Thomas, James McQuay,
Jeremiah Crockett, Ty Nalls, Matt Marinchak*

*Back row (l to r): Julius Cummings, Reggie Prial, Tyler Watkins, Armend Karpuzzi, Ryan Greggerson,
Micah Jones, Octavius Hardy, Connor Vehec, Will Butler*



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