

2009 SCHEDULE/RESULTS

8/28-29	at Missouri Southern Invitational	
8/28	vs. Southeastern Oklahoma	L, 1-3
8/28	vs. Harding	W, 3-1
8/29	vs. Midwestern State	W, 3-0
8/29	vs. Missouri S&T	W, 3-1
9/4-5	at Abilene Christian Tournament	
9/4	vs. Incarnate Word	L, 2-3
9/4	at Abilene Christian	L, 1-3
9/5	vs. Angelo State	W, 3-1
9/5	vs. Cameron	W, 3-2
9/11-12	at Peggy Martin Classic – Central Missouri	
9/11	vs. Edinboro University	W, 3-0
9/11	at No. 12 Central Missouri*	W, 3-0
9/12	vs. St. Mary's (TX)	W, 3-0
9/12	vs. Missouri-St. Louis	W, 3-1
9/18	at Nebraska-Omaha*	L, 2-3
9/20	at Fort Hays*	W, 3-1
9/23	Missouri Western*	7:00
9/25	at Northwest Missouri*	7:00
9/26	at No. 9 Truman*	3:00
10/2-3	Pittsburg State Classic	
10/2	Dallas Baptist University	2:00
	No. 12 Central Missouri*	6:00
	Texas A&M Commerce	10:30
	Abilene Christian	3:00
10/9	No. 3 Emporia State*	7:00
10/10	No. 11 Washburn*	6:00
10/11	Fort Hays*	2:00
10/14	Missouri Southern*	7:00
10/17	Southwest Baptist*	2:00
10/23	Nebraska-Omaha*	7:00
10/24	Alumni (Exhibition)	11:00
10/28	at Missouri Western*	7:00
10/30	Northwest Missouri*	7:00
10/31	No. 9 Truman* (Senior Day)	3:00
11/6	at No. 3 Emporia State	7:00
11/7	at No. 11 Washburn	2:00
11/11	at Missouri Southern	7:00
11/14	at Southwest Baptist	2:00
11/19-21	NCAA Div II Regionals	TBA
12/3-5	NCAA Div II Finals	TBA

MATCHES 15, 16 & 17

VS. MISSOURI WESTERN

SEPT. 23 • JOHN LANCE ARENA

AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI

SEPT 25 • BEARCAT ARENA • MARYVILLE, MO.

AT NO. 20 TRUMAN

SEPT. 26 • PERSHING ARENA • KIRKSVILLE, MO.

On Wednesday the No. 21 Gorillas finally get to play a home match as they take on Missouri Western at 7 p.m. in John Lance Arena. The Gorillas have a 148-162-3 (.478) all time record in their home venue. Last season the Gorillas lost only one match at home.

Following Wednesday's match, the Gorillas will take the road again, but for the last time until October 28. This weekend Pitt State travels to Maryville, Mo. on Friday for a 7 p.m. match against Northwest Missouri State and then on to Kirksville, Mo. for a 3 p.m. faceoff with No. 20 Truman.

The Gorillas are 115-197 (.369) in conference action since joining the MIAA in 1989. That record improves to 75-87 (.463) since Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu took over the program in 1999 and to 31-18 (.633) over the last three seasons.

Up Next: The Gorillas host the Pitt State Classic sponsored by Holiday Inn Express on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3.

Tournament teams include Central Missouri, Missouri Southern and Pitt State from the MIAA, Abilene Christian and Texas A&M Commerce from the Lone Star Conference and Newman and Dallas Baptist from the Heartland Conference.

Pitt State will face Dallas Baptist at 2 p.m. on Friday, followed by a 6 p.m. conference matchup with Central Missouri. Saturday the Gorillas play A&M Commerce at 10:30 a.m. and Abilene Christian at 3 p.m.

SCOUTING THE GORILLAS

The Gorillas come into tonight's match with a 10-4 record overall and a 2-1 record in MIAA play.

As a team, the Gorillas are averaging 16.18 points per set and hitting at a .227 clip with an average of 13.4 kills per set. The team also records 16.73 digs per set and 1.42 blocks per set. The Gorillas aggressive serving style garners them 1.31 aces per set.

Pitt State is led by senior outside hitter Pamela Cartagena, who does a lot for the Gorillas offensively and defensively. She averages 4.48 points per set, including a team-leading 4.24 kills per set. She also is second on the team in digs with 3.85 per set.

Senior Emily Vosseler keeps the offense running from the setter position and averages 10.8 assists per set. She is also becoming more of a threat in other ways as well. She has already recorded 18 blocks and 27 kills on the season, both more than she did all of last season. She has also recorded 103 digs in 14 matches, just over two thirds of the 150 she had over 35 matches in 2008.

Cassie Wilson is the team's leader in digs with 4.38 per set.

It is the new players who are leading the Gorillas in blocking. Freshmen Leah Flynn and Brooke Fay each have 26 blocks on the season. Junior Molly Bergkamp is not far behind with 21.

Sophomore Corrinne Stringer and Bergkamp are also strong contributors offensively. Stringer averages 2.96 kills per set, second only to Cartagena, while Bergkamp averages 2.33.

SCOUTING THE GRIFFONS

Missouri Western is 7-8 on the season and 0-3 in MIAA play. The Griffons have suffered conference losses to Fort Hays State (3-2), Emporia State (3-1) and Washburn (3-0).

2009 PITT STATE VOLLEYBALL

NO	NAME	POS	HT	YR	EXP	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
1	Emily Vosseler	S	5-10	SR	2L	Leavenworth, Kan./Immaculata High School
2	Riann Deere	DS/L	5-3	JR	TR	Lansing, Kan./Neosho County Community College
3	Pamela Cartagena	OH	5-7	SR	3L	Bayamon, Puerto Rico/Thompson High School
4	Molly Bergkamp	M/OH	5-9	JR	TR	Blue Rapids, Kan./Hutchinson Community College
5	Brooke Fay	M/OH	6-0	FR	HS	Parkville, Mo./Park Hill South High School
7	Andrea Torres	MB	6-1	FR	HS	Cochabamba, Bolivia/Colegia Aleman Federico
8	Tesia Lahm	DS/L	5-6	SO	SQ	Carl Junction, Mo./Carl Junction High School
9	Samantha Franiuk	OH/RS	5-10	SO	SQ	Tonganoxie, Kan./Tonganoxie High School
10	Corrinne Stringer	OH	6-0	SO	TR	Topeka, Kan./University of Kansas
11	Cassie Wilson	DS/L	5-10	JR	1L	Pittsburg, Kan./Pittsburg High School
12	Leah Flynn	OH/RS	5-11	FR	HS	Topeka, Kan./Hayden High School
14	Rebecca Pearson	S	5-8	FR	HS	Kansas City, Mo./St. Pius X High School
16	Shannon Majors	OH	5-8	FR	HS	Topeka, Kan./Washburn Rural High School
20	Brook Jansen	M/RS	5-11	FR	HS	Shawnee, Kan./St. James Academy

Head Coach: Ibraheem Suberu (Park, Mo., 1993) - 11th Season

Assistant Coach: Lindsay Sowder-Hill (Pittsburg State, 2003) - Second Season

Student Assistant: Kaitlyn Smith - First Season

Manager: Wes Book - Second Season

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Name	Sounds Like
Pamela CARTAGENA	cart-uh-HEY-na
RIANN Deere	RYAN

Samantha FRANIUK
TESIA LAHM
IBRAHEEM SUBERU

fron-YOOK
teh-SHA LAM
EE-bra-heem Soo-ber-oo

The team averages 14.62 points per set, including 11.25 kills, 1.80 aces and 1.57 blocks per set. The Griffons are hitting at a .155 clip.

Kelli Sicner leads the team with 3.51 kills per set. Also averaging more than two kills per set is Meghan Voelz (2.27 kps). Allison Smith is the team's best percentage hitter, as she is hitting .223. She is also second on the team for blocks with 31 (0.55 bps). Alexandra Behnke leads the team with 49 blocks on the season for 0.89 per set. Madison Benton is the team's setter with 9.20 assists per set. Sicner, Voelz and Amanda Bates share defensive duties in the back court with handling around 2.5 digs per set.

SCOUTING THE BEARCATS

Northwest Missouri is 8-7 overall and 1-2 in the conference. The team took on two of the MIAA's top teams in the opening week of league play, falling to both Washburn (3-0) and Emporia State (3-1) and earning a 3-2 win over Hays.

As a team, the Bearcats average 15.43 points per game. They are hitting .229 with 12.20 kills per game, with assists on 11.15 of those kills. The team has 103.5 total blocks on the season for 1.92 blocks per game. The back court averages 13.46 digs per game.

Sarah Falcone is the team's leader a .298 hitting percentage and 2.63 kills per set. She is also the team's leading blocker with 52 total blocks on the season. Alex Hanna (2.51 kps) and Ashley Mitchell (2.33 kps) are additional regulars in the Bearcat lineup that average two or more kills per set

Laura Akin in the team's setter. She averages 9.91 assists per set.

Defensively, Paige Spangenberg anchors the back court with 4.80 digs per set. At the net, Amber Ryan is second on the team with 44 blocks and Ashley Mitchell is right behind with 40.

SCOUTING THE BULLDOGS

Truman is 11-5 overall and 2-2 in the conference. The team took lost its first two matches of conference play, both 3-1 decisions to Emporia State and Washburn, before defeating Fort Hays State, 3-1, and Southwest Baptist, 3-2.

As a team, the Bulldogs average 15.70 points per game. They are hitting .203 with 12.93 kills per game, with assists on 11.82 of those kills. The team has 98.0 total blocks on the season for 1.61 blocks per game. The back court averages 16.11 digs per game.

Megan Sharpe is the team's leader a .373 hitting percentage and 3.25 kills per set. She is also the team's leading blocker with 43 total blocks on the season. Lauren Graybeal (2.51 kps) and Allison Barker (2.44 kps) are additional regulars in the Bulldog lineup that average two or more kills per set

Ashley Petak serves as the team's primary setter, averaging 6.82 assists per set. Kylie Easlon has also seen action at setter in 12 matches and averages 4.28 assists per set.

Defensively, Casey Bruno anchors the back court with 4.39 digs per set. Barker (3.16 dps), Heather Hargadine (3.13 dps) and Petak (2.59 dps) also make significant contributions in the back court. At the net, Graybeal is second on the team with 31 blocks, while Erin Hattey has contributed 28..

THE COACHES

Pitt State head coach Ibraheem Suberu is 192-160 in his 11th season at Pittsburg State. He is the winningest coach in program history and is just eight wins from reaching the 200 wins plateau.

Both Missouri Western's Cory Frederick and Truman's Ben Briney are in their inaugural seasons at their respective schools.

Anna Tool is in the fourth season as the head coach at Northwest Missouri State. She has an even 87-87 record overall and a 49-65 record with the Bearcats.

PSU VS. MISSOURI WESTERN

Pitt State and Missouri Western have met 68 times. The Griffons have won 49 of those meetings to just 19 for the Gorillas. Despite the unbalance in the overall series, Pitt State has won each of the last nine meetings between the two schools. The last time Missouri Western won a match over PSU was October 3, 2003 in a tight 3-2 decision in St. Joseph.

Pitt State won both matches last season by 3-0 scores. The Gorillas won in St. Joseph by scores of 25-14, 25-15, 25-10, and in Pittsburg, 25-16, 25-15, 25-18.

PSU VS. NORTHWEST MISSOURI

The Gorillas are 22-23-1 all-time against the Bearcats. Pitt State has won 14 of the last 15 meetings and has not lost a match to NWMSU since Sept. 29, 2004 in Maryville.

Pitt State won both meetings last season, taking a 3-0 (25-21, 25-17, 25-12) decision in Pittsburg on Sept. 26 and a 3-1 (25-17, 23-25, 25-13, 25-12) Halloween win in Maryville.

PSU VS. TRUMAN

The Bulldogs have dominated the series with Pitt State, holding a 39-4 advantage in the all-time series. Prior to last season, Truman had won 11 straight matches over the Gorillas. Pitt State added its fourth notch in the win column though in the meeting at Pittsburg. The Gorillas win the match 3-1 (25-23, 25-14, 21-25, 25-16). Truman got the better of the Gorillas in Kirksville, though, winning 3-0 (25-22, 25-21, 25-20).

LAST TIME OUT

The Pitt State Volleyball team (9-4, 1-1) lost its first MIAA Conference match on Friday evening, as the Gorillas fell, 3-2, to Nebraska-Omaha (12-3, 2-0) at Sapp Fieldhouse in Omaha.

There was only 15 total points difference between the two teams total in the five sets. The largest margin of victory in any one set, was six points by the Gorillas in the fourth set.

The Gorillas started the match winning set one 25-22. The Lady Mavs came back in set two to win 25-23. The third set, also went the home team's way, but took some extra points before they took down the Gorillas, 29-27. Pitt State rallied in the fourth set, taking the 25-19 win and sending the game to the fifth set. The home court advantage helped lead UNO to the 15-13 set and match win.

Senior outside hitter Pamela Cartagena led four Gorillas with double figure kills with 24 on the night. She also added 14 digs for a double-double. Senior setter Emily Vosseler also recorded a double-double with 63 assists and 13 digs. Sophomore outside hitter Corrinne Stringer (16), junior middle blocker Molly Bergkamp (13) and freshman middle blocker Brooke Fay (12) also recorded double figure kills. Junior libero Cassie Wilson led the team with 29 digs.

The Gorillas were outplayed defensively at the net as they registered just 3.0 blocks to 11.0 for the Lady Mavs. Two UNO players each registered six blocks on the night. Ellen Thommes was the leading hitter for UNO with 19 kills on the night.

Despite dropping the first set, 22-25, against Fort Hays State (4-12, 1-3 MIAA) on Sunday afternoon, the Gorilla volleyball team (10-4, 2-1 MIAA) came back to win the next three straight for the 3-1 win.

Pitt State took the second set 25-23 and the third 25-20 before a convincing 25-14 win in the final set.

The Gorillas were strong at the net, earning nine team blocks to five for the Tigers. Each of the six Pitt State starters recorded two or more blocks in the match, led by freshman Brooke Fay with six.

Sophomore Corrinne Stringer led the Pitt State offense with 16 kills. Senior Pamela Cartagena added a double-double with 13 kills and 17 digs. Senior Emily Vosseler also recorded a double-double with 35 assists and 12 digs. Junior Cassie Wilson led the team with 21 digs.

GORILLAS IN CONFERENCE STATS

The Gorillas are currently fourth in the MIAA behind Washburn, Emporia State and Nebraska-Omaha who all have unblemished league records.

As a team, the Gorillas are sixth in hitting percentage, and fifth in assists and kills. The team is second in digs behind only Central Missouri. They are eighth in service aces and last in both opponent hitting percentage and blocks.

PERSONNEL BREAKDOWN

Starters Returning (3)

	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Pamela Cartagena	OH/RS	5-7	Sr.
Emily Vosseler	S	5-10	Sr.
Cassie Wilson	DS	5-10	Jr.

Starters Lost (5)

	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Valeen Finney	OH/RS	6-1	So.
Klaudia Grelowska	OH/RS	6-1	Sr.
Linda Igbinigie	MB	6-4	Sr.
Lindsay Quall	MB/RS	5-10	Sr.
Sammie Williams	RS/OPP	6-1	Sr.

Letterwinners Lost (1)

	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Samantha Ball	S	5-8	Fr.

Squadmembers Returning (2)

	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Samantha Franiuk	OH/RS	5-10	So.
Tesia Lahm	DS	5-6	So.

Newcomers (9)

	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.
Molly Bergkamp	MB/OH	5-9	Jr.
Riann Deere	DS	5-3	Jr.
Brooke Fay	MB/OH	6-0	Fr.
Leah Flynn	OH/RS	5-11	Fr.
Brook Jansen	MB/RS	5-11	Fr.
Shannon Majors	OH	5-8	Fr.
Rebecca Pearson	S	5-8	Fr.
Corrinne Stringer	OH	6-0	So.
Andrea Torres	MB	6-1	Fr.

Seniors (2)

	Pos.	Ht.	Exp.
Pamela Cartagena	OH	5-7	3L
Emily Vosseler	S	5-10	2L

Juniors (2)


	Pos.	Ht.	Exp.
Molly Bergkamp	MB/OH	5-9	TR
Riann Deere	DS	5-3	TR

Sophomore (3)

	Pos.	Ht.	Exp.
Samantha Franiuk	OH/RS	5-10	SQ
Tesia Lahm	DS	5-6	SQ
Corrinne Stringer	OH	6-0	TR

Freshmen (6)

	Pos.	Ht.	Exp.
Brooke Fay	MB/OH	6-0	Fr.
Leah Flynn	OH/RS	5-11	Fr.
Brook Jansen	MB/RS	5-11	Fr.
Shannon Majors	OH	5-8	Fr.
Rebecca Pearson	S	5-8	Fr.
Andrea Torres	MB	6-1	Fr.



Individually, Pamela Cartagena shares the league lead in kills with 4.24 per set. She is also ninth in digs with 3.85 per set and third in points (4.48 pps). Emily Vosseler is fourth in assists with 10.87 per set and ninth in aces with 0.35 per set. Cassie Wilson ranks fourth in the league in digs with 4.38 per set.

STREAKY SCHEDULE

This season's schedule is quite streaky. The Gorillas begin the season with 14 straight matches on the road and play only one home match in September. Then October hits. The Gorillas open the month hosting the Pitt State Classic sponsored by Holiday Inn Express on Oct. 2 and 3 and will play 10 straight matches at home. They play only one match on the road in October. The last home match of the season is on Halloween, as PSU hits the road again in November.

CLOSING IN ON 200

Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu is closing in on his 200th win at Pitt State. His record four weeks into his 11th season in Pittsburg is 193-161. He is just seven wins from the 200 wins plateau. With the schedule set up as it is, Suberu is sure to reach this mark in front of the home fans.

Suberu is already the winningest head coach in the program's history. On Sept. 19, 2006, Suberu collected his 113th win at PSU to pass Joan Warrington on the school's all-time coaching victories list. He collected his 150th win on Oct. 16, 2007 in a three-set match against Rockhurst.

RECORDS WATCH

Pamela Cartagena could set new records for both career kills and career digs this season. She is currently third on the kills list with 1,540. Though that is still 285 away from the record of 1,825 set by Sammie Williams just last season, Cartagena needs only to average 14.21 kills in each of the regular season matches remaining. She has averaged 16.36 per match for the first eight matches of the season.

Cartagena is second on the all-time digs list with 1,926. She needs 400 for the school record, which is currently 2,326 set by Dina Wathan from 2000-03. This record will be a bit harder to attain, as she needs to average 20 digs a match.

CARTAGENA NAMED MIAA HITTER OF THE WEEK

Pitt State senior outside hitter Pamela Cartagena was named the MIAA Hitter of the Week on Sept. 15, as voted on by a committee of conference SIDs.

Cartagena was named Most Valuable Player of the UCM Peggy Martin Classic as she led the Gorillas to a 4-0 record in the tournament, including a conference-opening win over No. 8 Central Missouri. She finished the weekend hitting at a .310 clip with 54 kills. Cartagena recorded double-doubles against Central Missouri (15 kills, 15 digs) and Missouri-St. Louis (20 kills, 18 digs). The 20 kills against Missouri-St. Louis marks the third time this season she has recorded 20 or more kills in a match. Cartagena averaged 4.50 kills and 3.92 digs per set. She also added three blocks and an ace and averaged 4.71 points per set.

For the season, Cartagena averages 4.27 kills and 3.93 digs per set. Against Missouri-St. Louis, she recorded her 1,500th career kill, making her only the third player in PSU Volleyball history to record 1,500 or more kills. Cartagena is also now one of only two players in program history to have more than 1,500 kills and 1,500 digs in her career.

Cartagena is a two-time All-American from Bayamon, Puerto Rico. She is majoring in recreation and is the daughter of Pedro and Felicita Cartagena.

THREE NAMED TO PEGGY MARTIN CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Senior outside hitter Pamela Cartagena was named the Peggy Martin Classic Most Valuable Player, while senior setter Emily Vossler and sophomore outside hitter Corrinne Stringer took up two more spots on the six person All-Tournament team.

Cartagena was named MVP after leading the Gorillas with 4.50 kills per set on the weekend, while hitting at a .310 clip. She also averaged 3.92 digs per set, as she recorded two double-doubles. She tallied 15 kills and 15 digs in PSU's MIAA-opening win over No. 8 Central Missouri and added 20 kills and 18 digs in the win over Missouri-St. Louis. She also added three block assists and a service ace.

Vosseler averaged 11.31 assists per game. She earned a double-double in the win over UMSL as she recorded 50 assists and tied her season-high with 15 digs. She recorded a career-high four service aces in the win over St. Mary's and added two more against Missouai-St. Louis. Vosseler also added six kills and three block assists to the team effort on the weekend.

Stringer averaged 3.92 kills per set and hit .256 over the weekend's four matches. She recorded double digit kills in each of the matches, leading the Gorillas with 13 kills against St. Mary's and recording a career-high 16 against UMSL. She also added five blocks and 18 digs for the weekend.

RANKINGS

After the win over No. 8 Central Missouri last weekend, the Gorillas are back in the top 25. Pitt State is now No. 21 in the AVCA Division II Top 25 Poll. The Gorillas had dropped out of the poll briefly in Week 2.

PSU again started the season as the No. 17 team in the country according to the AVCA Coaches Top 25 Preseason Poll. The Gorillas are slated to play eight matches against teams ranked in the preseason poll, with all of those matches being in conference action. PSU's highest ranked opponent is Emporia State at No. 3.

"This year's team understands its pre-season No. 17 ranking is because of the respect for what the Pitt State Volleyball program has become," said Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu. "They are working hard to earn their own identity."

RETURNING LETTERWINNERS

There are two crucial pieces to the 2009 Pitt State squad earning its own identity . . . and its own spot in the rankings. Those crucial pieces are its seniors, outside hitter Pamela Cartagena (5-7, Bayamon, Puerto Rico) and senior Emily Vosseler (5-10, Leavenworth, Kan.). Both are fifth-year seniors and they will be relied on for their experience and leadership.

Cartagena is no stranger to the rigors of the Pitt State schedule and the competitiveness of the teams the squad will face, especially in league play. Because of that experience and her ability to score points, Cartagena must be the anchor for her young team. In the past, Cartagena has had a strong cast of supporting veteran players around her. She has been one of several stars on the court, now she will be the main star that the offensive and defensive schemes revolve around.

"We will rely on Pamela to carry a big part of our offense and defense," Suberu said. "She will have to be the person that our pass defense and attack flows through more than in the past."

Vosseler's role will be to be a steadying factor on the court for all the young players. Her experience on the court the last three years and as a starter last year give her the skills to be a more consistent player. Her consistency at setter is necessary for a smoothly run offense. At the end of last season, Vosseler also began to take on a bigger defensive role, as she put up bigger numbers of blocks and digs. That trend will continue this season as her experience will be valuable both at the net and in the back court.

Junior Cassie Wilson (5-10, Pittsburg, Kan.) is the third Gorilla player who saw considerable time on the court in 2008. Her role will continue to expand in 2009, so much, in fact, that Coach Suberu describes her position as a utility player. In addition to a continued defensive role in the back court, Wilson will also be relied on contribute offensively in the front court as well.

"Cassie has fashioned a very important role for herself as someone who can play both offensively and defensively," Suberu said. "He role will change match to match, based on where she is most needed. She is capable of being dominant as a libero, as well as provide stability at the net as an offensive player."



SETTERS

Training behind Vosseler at the setter position will be freshman Becca Pearson (5-8, Kansas City, Mo./St. Pius X High School). Pearson has a strong presence on the court, good energy and communications skills and good defensive skills. As she works on more consistency in her set location and decision making, she will become more capable of being a bigger contributor.

OUTSIDE/RIGHTSIDE HITTERS

The outside/rightside hitter positions have a returner with one year of experience and two newcomers joining Cartagena. Sophomore Samantha Franiuk (5-10, Tonganoxie, Kan.) saw limited action last season, but came on during the spring and in early preseason practices. She has established herself as a point scorer, reads schemes better and has expanded her shot making range. Sophomore Corrinne Stringer (6-0, Topeka, Kan.) joins the Pitt State squad from the University of Kansas. She is a very physical player. She is adjusting to the Pitt State system very well and since arriving in Pittsburg has improved her range, form, footwork and passing. She will be counted on to produce points. Freshman Shannon Majors (5-8, Topeka, Kan./Washburn Rural High School) has a very good volleyball IQ and is evolving to be a physical force. She is improving her speed and vertical elevation so she will be able to play above the net consistently.

MIDDLE BLOCKERS

Five new players will be competing for spots in middle blocker positions. Junior Molly Bergkamp (5-9, Blue Rapids, Kan.) transferred to Pitt State from Hutchinson Community College. She will play middle blocker/outside hitter. She is quick and aggressive and her quickness will be an asset in the Gorilla's blocking defense. She will be able to produce points and will be a leader on the court. Junior Sydney Pemberton (6-2, Overland Park, Kan.) developed a high volleyball IQ while playing the last two seasons at Johnson County Community College. She will be a force in both middle blocker and right side hitter positions as she is capable of high point production and is a defensive force at the net. Freshman Brooke Fay (6-0, Parkville, Mo./Park Hill South High School) is a very athletic middle blocker/outside hitter with tremendous range. She possesses advanced blocking skills and is working on learning the rhythm of the Pitt State offense. Freshman Leah Flynn (5-11, Topeka, Kan./Hayden High School) has the potential to be a 3-to-4-point scorer per set. She has the ability to be multi-dimensional in her offensive role and has caught on quickly during preseason. Freshman Brook Jansen's (5-11, Shawnee, Kan./St. James Academy) attention to detail, determination to excel and understanding of the game will allow her to become a dependable point scorer for the Gorillas, whether in a middle blocker or rightside hitter position. If she continues the progress she has made in preseason, she will see more time as the season progresses.

DEFENSIVE SPECIALISTS

Pitt State has two players focusing as defensive specialists in 2009. Junior Riann Deere (5-3, Lansing, Kan.) transferred from Neosho Community College where she played libero for two seasons. She is a quick, high energy player, who is very team oriented. She will be able to provide the Gorillas with consistent passing, providing shut down, ball off the floor defense that is necessary to give the offense second and third chances to score points. Sophomore Tesia Lahm (5-6, Carl Junction, Mo.) has improved her communication skills and her vocal presence has been impressive in preseason workouts. That improved communication has helped her improve as a passer and defensive stopper. She will be counted on to contribute significantly this season.