

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. 8 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 No. 20 Nebraska-Omaha*	L, 2-3
9/20	at Fort Hays*	W, 3-1
9/23	Missouri Western*	W, 3-0
9/25	at Northwest Missouri*	W, 3-0
9/26	at No. 20 Truman*	L, 1-3
10/2-3	Pittsburg State Classic	
10/2	Dallas Baptist University	W, 3-0
	No. 5 Central Missouri*	L, 0-3
	Texas A&M Commerce	W, 3-1
	Abilene Christian	L, 1-3
10/9	No. 8 Emporia State*	7:00
10/10	No. 7 Washburn*	6:00
10/11	Fort Hays*	2:00
10/14	Missouri Southern*	7:00
10/17	Southwest Baptist*	2:00
10/23	No. 15 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. 21 Truman* (Senior Day)	3:00
11/6	at No. 8 Emporia State	7:00
11/7	at No. 7 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 22, 23 & 24

PITT STATE VS. EMPORIA STATE, WASHBURN & FORT HAYS STATE

OCT. 9 - 7 P.M., OCT. 10 - 6 P.M. & OCT. 11 - 2 P.M.
JOHN LANCE ARENA

The Gorillas play the first three games of a six-game conference home stand this weekend. Pitt State faces top 10 teams, No. 8 Emporia State and No. 7 Washburn on Friday and Saturday, followed by a Sunday match with Fort Hays State.

Up Next: The Gorillas face Missouri Southern on Wednesday (Oct. 14) at 7 p.m. at John Lance Arena. The game will be part of the Sonic Trophy Series between the two schools. If one team wins both volleyball matches, they will earn a trophy series point for their school. If the teams split, the one who finishes higher in the conference standings receives the point.

Saturday (Oct. 17) brings Southwest Baptist to town for a 2 p.m. match. That match marks the last match in the first time through the MIAA (although Pitt State and Central Missouri have already played both conference matches against one another.)

SCOUTING THE GORILLAS

The Gorillas are 14-7 overall and 4-3 in MIAA play.

As a team, the Gorillas are averaging 16.41 points per set and hitting at a .216 clip with an average of 13.57 kills per set. The team also records 17.11 digs per set and 1.61 blocks per set. The Gorillas aggressive serving style garners them 1.23 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 4.36 points per set, including a team-leading 4.12 kills per set. She also is second on the team in digs with 3.87 per set. She leads the team with a .268 hitting percentage.

Senior Emily Vosseler keeps the offense running from the setter position and averages 11.01 assists per set. She is also becoming more of a threat in other ways as well. She has recorded 27 blocks and 41 kills on the season, both more than she has in her previous three seasons at Pitt State. She has also recorded 157 digs in 21 matches, more than she had in 35 matches last season.

Cassie Wilson is the team's leader in digs with 4.59 per set.

It is the new players who are leading the Gorillas in blocking. Freshman Brooke Fay leads the team with 46, while fellow freshman Leah Flynn and sophomore Corrinne Stringer are just behind with 37 blocks a piece. Junior Molly Bergkamp is also not far behind with 34 total blocks on the season.

Sophomore Corrinne Stringer and Bergkamp are also strong contributors offensively. Stringer averages 2.99 kills per set, second only to Cartagena, while Bergkamp averages 2.53.

SCOUTING EMPORIA STATE

No. 8 Emporia State holds a 17-2 record overall and a 4-1 record in MIAA play. The Hornets one league loss was a 3-0 (25-11, 25-18, 25-23) loss to Central Missouri on Sept. 23. Their one other loss was to West Texas A&M, 3-2 (22-25, 29-31, 25-15, 25-20, 15-13), in Topeka last Friday.

Emporia State is hitting .276 as a team and average 14.63 kills per set. They also get 1.37 aces and 2.09 blocks per set to add up to 18.09 points per set. The team also manages 15.87 digs per set.

The Hornets are led by Arica Shepard with 4.69 points per set. She scores the majority of her points off her 4.28 kills per set, but is also the team's second leading blocker with 35 total blocks on the year. She is also strong defensively in the back court as she is second on the team with 3.58 digs per set.

Brittney Miller is second on the team with 3.13 kills per set. Brianna Boner also averages more than two kills per set with 2.80. Boner also leads the net defense with 45 total blocks on the season.

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 Frederico
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

Ting Liu is the team's setter. She averages 11.72 assists per set. She is also a dangerous server, as she leads the team with 31 services aces on the season. Both Liu and Katelyn Kaiser are also strong at the net for the Hornets as they each have 34 total blocks on the season.

Amy Byfield leads the team in the back court with 4.31 digs per set.

SCOUTING WASHBURN

The No. 7 Lady Blues are 19-2 on the season and 3-2 in league play. The team's only two losses were both 3-2 losses to Nebraska-Omaha (28-26, 19-25, 25-21, 20-25, 15-12) on September 23 and Central Missouri (25-22, 16-25, 20-25, 25-16, 15-13) on September 25. Washburn will face Missouri Southern on Tuesday and Southwest Baptist on Friday before coming to Pittsburg on Saturday.

Washburn averages 17.77 points per set, including 14.35 digs, 1.49 service aces and 1.92 blocks per set. The team hits at a .270 clip.

Mollie Lacy leads the team with 3.43 points per set. Just behind her is Hillary Hughes with 3.21 points per set. Breanna Lewis holds the team's top hitting percentage (.398). Lacy leads five players that get two or more kills per set with 2.94 kps. Hughes is second with 2.70, followed by Lewis (2.56 kps), Ashley Shepard (2.46 kps), and Jessica Fey (2.09 kps).

At the net, Kelci Wigger leads the team with 41 total blocks on the season. Following close behind are Lacy with 38 and Lewis with 26.

In the backcourt, Molly Smith leads the team with 3.94 digs per set. Tessa Brophy also gets over three digs per set with 3.13.

Anchoring the Lady Blues' offense is setter Kate Hampson, who averages 10.67 assists per set.

SCOUTING FORT HAYS STATE

Fort Hays State is 5-14 overall and 1-5 in the conference. The team opened MIAA play with a 3-2 (19-25, 21-25, 28-26, 25-19, 15-7), come-from-behind win over Missouri

Western in St. Joseph, but has not picked up a conference win since. The Tigers will face Missouri Southern on Friday and Southwest Baptist on Saturday before coming to Pittsburg on Sunday.

As a team, the Tigers average 15.36 points per game. They are hitting .143 with 12.59 kills per game, with assists on 11.86 of those kills. The team has 101.0 total blocks on the season for 1.46 blocks per game. The back court averages 14.91 digs per game.

Lilian Rezende is the team's leader with 4.46 points per set. She hits .193 with 3.83 kills per set. She is also strong in the back court with 2.84 digs per game which ranks second on the team.

Whitney Liggett and Lindsey Larson share setter duties. Liggett has the bulk of the assists with 6.72 per game, while Larson gets 4.04.

Defensively, Tracie Hileman anchors the back court with 4.28 digs per set. At the net, Rebecca Mausbach leads the team with 48 total blocks (9 solo, 39 assisted). Lydia Karnopp (30) also has more than 30 blocks on the season.

PSU VS. EMPORIA STATE

Emporia State holds a 61-16 advantage over Pitt State in the all-time series. Pitt State won the last meeting, 3-0 (25-23, 28-26, 25-22), last season in Pittsburg as the two teams split the series. The Hornets won on their home court, 3-2 (13-25, 21-25, 25-17, 25-20, 12-15). Emporia State has won seven of the last 10 meetings. The first meeting between the two teams was November 2, 1974, the first season of volleyball at Pitt State. Emporia State won the match 2-0 (15-4, 15-9).

PSU VS. WASHBURN

The series with Washburn is also lopsided in favor of the Lady Blues. Washburn leads 47-24. Pitt State did win the last meeting between the two teams however, a 3-2 (17-25, 25-20, 17-25, 25-23, 15-13) thriller in Pittsburg. Washburn has won seven of the last 10 meetings between the two teams. The first meeting was October 19, 1974. Washburn won 2-0 (15-11, 15-6).

PSU VS. FORT HAYS STATE

Pitt State has a 18-26 all-time record against Fort Hays State. Despite the overall record being in the Tigers' favor, the Gorillas have won each of the last eight meetings and have not lost a match to Fort Hays since Coach Suberu's first season at Pitt State.

Pitt State won an earlier meeting between the two teams on Sept. 20 in Hays. The Gorillas won 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-20, 25-14).

LAST SEASON VS. EMPORIA STATE

The Gorillas split matches with the Hornets last season, with each team winning on its home court. Recaps from both matches follow.

In its first five set match of the season, the No. 13 Pittsburg State University volleyball team (19-4, 5-3 MIAA) fell 3-2 (13-25, 21-25, 25-17, 25-20, 12-15) to No. 11 Emporia State University on Friday Oct. 10.

Emporia, who has now won 18 straight matches and is undefeated in MIAA play, won the first two sets, 25-13 and 25-21. The Hornets held the Gorillas to just eight kills in the first set. Set two saw much improvement from the Gorillas as they had 16 kills to 15 for the Hornets, but nine attack errors to only three for ESU made the difference in the set.

Pitt State came back with a vengeance in the third set, hitting .529 to earn the 25-17 victory and force a fourth set. PSU's perseverance frustrated the Hornets, allowing Pitt State the fourth set win, 25-20. The Gorillas managed a .324 team attack percentage, while holding Emporia to just .120. ESU rallied and overcame Pitt State's momentum to win the final set 15-12.

After 17 total attack errors in the first two sets, Pitt State only had one each in sets three and four and only three in the final set.

Junior Pamela Cartagena and senior Linda Igbinigie led the Gorillas with 16 kills a piece. They also each had two blocks and Cartagena added 18 digs for a double-double. Senior Klaudia Grelowska led the team with five total blocks (1 BS, 4 BA). She also added 11 kills.

Senior Sammie Williams finished the night with 10 kills. Sophomore Cassie Wilson was the only player in addition to Cartagena with double figures in digs as she led the team with 19. Sophomore Valeen Finney was also strong at the block for the Gorillas as she had four blocks assists in the match.

Emporia State's Arica Shepard, last week's MIAA Volleyball Player of the Week, led all players with 26 kills. Brittney Miller (15) and Megan Koster (12) also hit double figures in kills for the Hornets. Amy Byfield led all players with 23 digs. Koster and Shepard each recorded double doubles, tallying 14 digs a piece. Setter Ting Liu also had a double-double as she had 66 assists and 12 digs.

The Hornets outblocked Pitt State by two, 10.0 to 8.0. Brienne Boner led her team's efforts with six blocks assists, while Miller added five and Hannah Carter, four.

The No. 19 Pittsburg State Volleyball team (25-7, 10-6 MIAA) upset No. 5 Emporia State (28-3, 14-2 MIAA) with a 3-0 victory on Friday night, Nov. 7 in John Lance Arena. The Gorillas won by game scores of 25-23, 28-26 and 25-22, handing the Hornets only their third loss of the season and their second in league play.

The win was Pittsburg State's first over Emporia since Oct. 21, 2006.

The Gorillas were outstanding in the match. Even when down by as many as four in the second set, they fought hard for the win. Pitt State finished the match with a .320 attack percentage to .240 for the Hornets. The Gorillas registered 58 kills with 18 errors in 125 attempts, while Emporia had 49 kills and 18 errors in 129 attempts. The teams were fairly even on the block, with both teams registering 6.0 team blocks, however, ESU recorded two more blocking errors than PSU.

Senior Sammie Williams was sharp in the match, leading all players with 17 kills. She also added nine digs and two blocks (1 BS, 1BA). She recorded only three hitting errors in the match. Senior Linda Igbinigie recorded 12 kills and three blocks. Senior Klaudia Grelowska hit .400 for the match with eight kills and only two errors. She also added six assists, nine digs and a team high four blocks. Junior Pamela Cartagena had seven kills with only one error in the first game alone. Sophomore Valeen Finney and senior Lindsay Quall each added six kills. Finney also had two blocks. Junior Emily Vosseler handled the majority of the setting duties herself, recording 40 assists on the night, the

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.

AVCA DIVISION II COACHES TOP 25
OCTOBER 5, 2009

No.	School	Points	Record	LR
1.	Concordia-St. Paul (32)	800	19-0	1
2.	Cal State San Bernadin0	768	16-0	2
3.	UC San Diego	721	16-1	3
4.	Central Missouri	692	19-3	5
5.	Nebraska-Kearney	638	18-1	8
6.	West Texas A&M	615	18-3	T6
7.	Washburn	594	19-2	9
8.	Emporia State	579	17-2	T6
9.	Tampa	564	14-2	4
10.	Minnesota Duluth	506	14-3	10
11.	Minnesota State	485	18-2	11
12.	Indianapolis	456	19-1	12
13.	Lewis	409	16-3	13
14.	Southwest Minnesota State	368	15-5	14
15.	Nebraska-Omaha	357	13-4	15
16.	Saint Leo	294	15-2	23
17.	Sonoma State	268	14-3	16
18.	Metro State	236	12-4	18
19.	Wayne State (Neb.)	179	17-4	22
20.	Hawaii-Hilo	163	16-1	19
21.	Truman	147	15-7	20
22.	Eckerd	115	9-6	25
23.	Florida Southern	92	10-7	17
24.	West Florida	80	11-8	24
25.	Chico State	61	14-4	NR

Others receiving votes and listed on two or more ballots:
PITTSBURG STATE 44. Hillsdale 38, Lynn 37, Wingate 24, Wayne State (Mich.), Harding 11, Ferris State 9, Saginaw Valley State 9, West Alabama 8, Cal State L.A. 2, Western Washington 2.

most in a three-set match this season. Sophomore Cassie Wilson contributed defensively with 13 digs.

Arica Shepard led the Hornets with 14 kills and 11 digs f or a double-double. Megan Koster added 10 kills. Libero Amy Byfield led all players with 14 digs.

LAST SEASON VS. WASHBURN

Pitt State and Washburn each won the match at the home court last season. Recaps from both matches follow.

For the first time in 2008, the No. 13 Pittsburg State Volleyball team (19-5, 5-4 MIAA) has lost back-to-back matches. The Gorillas fell to No. 8 Washburn (21-2, 6-2 MIAA) in Topeka, 3-1 (25-18, 25-20, 22-25, 29-27), on Saturday (Oct. 11) evening.

Washburn took the first two sets, but Pitt State battled back to take the third set, 25-22. The fourth set was a constant back and forth between the two teams, with neither gaining a real advantage. There were four set points in the final set before Washburn eventually took the match at 29-27.

Junior Pamela Cartagena earned a double-double for the Gorillas with 10 kills and a new career-high 36 digs. Sophomore Valeen Finney led the team with 12 kills, just one under her career high. Senior Klaudia Grelowska added a second double-double for the Gorillas with 11 kills and 10 digs. Sophomore Cassie Wilson added 23 digs, while senior Sammie Williams had 10.

The Gorillas continued to show their prowess at the net, recording 9.0 blocks on the night to 6.0 for Washburn. Senior Linda Igbiginie led the team with five blocks (1 BS, 4 BA). Grelowska added four block assists and Finney three, while Williams and senior Topeka native Lindsay Quall each put down two. Molly Lacie and Kate Hampson combined for four of Washburn's total six blocks.

For Washburn, four players finished in double figures in kills led by Ashley Shepard, who led all players with 18. Stephanie Nitz added 14, Monica Mesiner 12 and Lacie 10. Five players recorded double digit digs, with Meisner and Molly Smith each having 20.

It was an intense afternoon in John Lance Arena on Saturday as the No. 19 Pittsburg State Volleyball team (26-7, 11-6 MIAA) took on No. 7 Washburn (29-4, 14-4 MIAA) on Nov. 8. It took five sets, the first five set match played at home this season, but the Gorillas were able to pull off the second upset of a top 10 team in as many days with a 3-2 (17-25, 25-20, 17-25, 25-23, 15-13) win over the Lady Blues.

Pitt State was outhit offensively, with a .205 hitting percentage for Washburn and a .186 for the Gorillas. Washburn also tallied almost 20 more kills than the Gorillas (71 to 53), but Pitt State's timing was key in the winning effort. They were able to come through with key kills and blocks at times when their backs were

against the wall. The Gorillas were stronger on the block, outblocking the Lady Blues 11.0 to 6.0.

Senior Sammie Williams recorded a double-double with 17 kills and 14 digs. Junior Emily Vosseler also recorded a double-double with 48 assists and 12 digs. Senior Linda Igbiginie led the team with 18 kills and was just one block short of a blocks/kills double-double. She had one solo block and eight block assists. Sophomore libero Cassie Wilson recorded a match-high 26 digs. Senior Klaudia Grelowska was one kill short of a double-double as she recorded nine kills and 16 digs.

Three Washburn players recorded double digit kills. Monica Miesner led the team with 16 kills and 19 digs. Mollie Lacy added 15 kills and Caitlin Conley had 14.

LAST TIME VS. FORT HAYS STATE

Despite dropping the first set, 22-25, against Fort Hays State (4-12, 1-3 MIAA) on Sunday (Sept. 20) 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.

LAST TIME OUT

Pitt State split matches in the Pitt State Classic, going 2-2 on the weekend.

The Pittsburg State University volleyball team split a pair of matches in day one action of the Pitt State Classic Friday (Oct. 2) at John Lance Arena.

The host Gorillas scored a 3-0 victory over Dallas Baptist University Friday afternoon, sweeping a 25-18, 25-19, 27-25 win. Pitt State, ranked No. 21 in the most recent AVCA Division II Top 25 poll, then dropped a 3-0 decision to No. 5 University of Central Missouri Friday evening. The Jennies handed the Gorillas a 25-22, 25-23, 25-14 setback in a Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association match-up.

Against DBU, Molly Bergkamp led Pitt State with a match-high 14 kills, while Pamela Cartagena also reached double figures with 10. Emily Vosseler contributed 34 assists and Cassie Wilson finished the match with a team-leading nine digs.

Kalyn Frink had a team-high 11 kills for DBU.

Against UCM, Cartagena had a team-high 10 kills, while Bergkamp finished with nine. The Jennies, who outhit Pitt State .229 to .153, were paced by Allie Huffman's match-high 18 kills.

The Pittsburg State volleyball team (14-7 4-3 MIAA) split games in the final day of the Pitt State Classic Saturday. The Gorillas earned a win over Texas A&M-Commerce (18-5), 3-1 (25-23, 25-21, 15-25, 27-25), but fell to Abilene Christian (15-5), 1-3 (21-25, 15-25, 25-19, 24-26).

Senior Pamela Cartagena and sophomore Corrinne Stringer both recorded double-doubles in kills and digs to lead the Gorillas over Commerce in the first match of the day. Pitt State pulled out close victories in the first two sets before dropping the third, then took some extra points to down the Lions in the fourth set.

Cartagena recorded 16 kills and 13 digs, while Stringer had 15 kills and 16 digs. Junior Cassie Wilson led the team with 26 digs and three of the Gorillas' six aces.

Fighting back from a slow start, the Gorillas could never catch up to Abilene Christian in the afternoon match. After dropping the first two sets, Pitt State won the third before losing the fourth set in extra points.

Cartagena had 12 kills and 11 digs to record a double-double. Senior setter Emily Vosseler also had a double-double 42 assists and 12 digs. Wilson led the Gorillas with 23 digs. Stringer led the Gorillas with 13 kills and five blocks.

The Wildcats, who outhit the Gorillas .205 to .168, were led by Jennie Hutt with match-high 16 kills.

PSU IN CONFERENCE ACTION

The Gorillas are 116-199 (.368) in conference action since joining the MIAA in 1989. That record improves to 76-89 (.461) since Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu took over the program in 1999 and to 32-20 (.615) over the last three seasons.

GORILLAS IN CONFERENCE STATS

Everyone in the MIAA now has at least one conference loss on the season. The Gorillas, who are 4-3 in league play, are currently in fifth place in the league standings. Central Missouri leads the league with a 6-1 record. Nebraska-Omaha is second at 5-1 and Emporia State is third at 4-1. Washburn is right ahead of the Gorillas at 4-2.

As a team, the Gorillas are fifth in hitting percentage, assists and kills. The team leads in digs. They are eighth in blocks, 10th in opponent hitting percentage and ninth in service aces.

Individually, Pamela Cartagena is second in the league in kills with 4.12 per set. She is also 10th in digs with 4.00 per set and third in points (4.36 pps). Emily Vosseler is third in assists with 11.01 per set and seventh in aces with 0.32 per set. Molly Bergkamp is 10th in aces with 0.29 per set. Cassie Wilson ranks fourth in the league in digs with 4.59 per set.

STREAKY SCHEDULE

This season's schedule is quite streaky. The Gorillas began the season with 14 straight matches on the road and played only one home match in September. Now 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 197-164. He is just three 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 1,617. Though that is still 208 away from the record of 1,825 set by Sammie Williams just last season, Cartagena needs only to average 16.0 kills in each of the 13 regular season matches remaining. She has averaged 15.10 per match in the 21 matches thus far.

Cartagena is second on the all-time digs list with 2,002. She needs 324 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 24.92 digs a match.

Cartagena recorded her 2,000th career dig in the match against Abilene Christian on Saturday, October 3. She is only the second player in school history to record more than 2,000 digs in her career.

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.

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.


Vossler 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 Missouri-St. Louis. Vossler 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 two losses in the Pitt State Classic, the Gorillas have dropped out of the top 25. The Gorillas are receiving the most votes of teams not ranked in the top 25. The Gorillas could easily move back into the rankings with a good showing this week, as they face both No. 7 Washburn and No. 8 Emporia State.

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. "Her 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.