

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* | L, 0-3 |
| 10/10 | No. 7 Washburn* | L, 1-3 |
| 10/11 | Fort Hays* | W, 3-0 |
| 10/14 | Missouri Southern* | W, 3-2 |
| 10/17 | Southwest Baptist* | W, 3-0 |
| 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 |

MATCH 27

PITT STATE VS. NEBRASKA-OMAHA

OCT. 23 - 7 P.M.

JOHN LANCE ARENA - PITTSBURG, KAN.

Pitt State plays only one match this week, as No. 15 Nebraska-Omaha comes to Pittsburg for a 7 p.m. match on Oct. 23. The match has been designated as a "Dig Pink" match in conjunction with the American Volleyball Coaches Association in attempt to raise funds for breast cancer research. More information on PSU's Dig Pink fundraising efforts is included below.

Though it is not a match the counts in the official record, the Gorillas will host their annual alumni match in conjunction with Homecoming activities on Oct. 24. Current and former Gorillas will face off in a fun match at 11 a.m. prior to the football game kick off at 2 p.m.

Up next: The Gorillas play three conference matches next week. They open the week with October's only road match, at Missouri Western on Wednesday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

On the weekend, the Gorillas return home for their final matches of the season at John Lance Arena. Pitt State takes on Northwest Missouri State at 7 p.m. on Friday, followed by a 3 p.m. match against Truman on Saturday. Saturday is designated as Senior Day and seniors Pamela Cartagena and Emily Vosseler will be honored.



DIG PINK

The PSU Volleyball team will host a Dig Pink Match on October 23 at 7 p.m. against Nebraska-Omaha. Dig Pink is a Breast Cancer Awareness Rally being held all of October to raise awareness and funds, sponsored by the Side-Out Foundation.

Each year the Side-Out Foundation wants to make a statement by holding hundreds, potentially thousands, of featured high school and college matches across the country to help educate and raise funds to eradicate this terrible disease. Proceeds will go towards doing something significant and identifiable in the fight against Breast Cancer.

Anyone wishing to donate to PSU and the Side-Out Foundation's fundraising efforts can go to Pitt State's fundraising page at https://www.side-out.org/application/teams/team_page/2094. The Gorillas have set a goal to raise \$2000 this season. Last season the team raised almost \$800.

In 2008, 330 college and 285 high school teams raised \$390,000 through Dig Pink Rallies. This season 810 college and high school teams have raised almost \$115,000.

200 WINS

Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu earned his 200th career win at Pitt State with the 3-0 win over Southwest Baptist on October 17. He is the first coach in program history to earn 200 wins. He entered the season just needing 17 wins to reach this plateau.

Suberu was 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.

SCOUTING THE GORILLAS

The Gorillas are 17-9 overall and 7-5 in MIAA play.

As a team, the Gorillas are averaging 16.54 points per set and hitting at a .219 clip with an average of 13.70 kills per set. The team also records 17.30 digs per set and 1.60 blocks per set. The Gorillas aggressive serving style garners them 1.20 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 4.26 points per set, including a team-leading 3.99 kills per set. She also is second on the team in digs with 4.04 per set. She leads the team with a .256 hitting percentage.

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 | Samantha FRANIUK | fron-YOOK |
| RIANN Deere | RYAN | TESIA LAHM | teh-SHA LAM |
| | | IBRAHEEM SUBERU | EE-bra-heem Soo-ber-oo |

Senior Emily Vosseler keeps the offense running from the setter position and averages 11.10 assists per set. She is also becoming more of a threat in other ways as well. She has recorded 34 blocks and 50 kills on the season, both more than she has in her previous three seasons at Pitt State. She has also recorded 199 digs.

Cassie Wilson is the team's leader in digs with 4.67 per set.

It is the new players who are leading the Gorillas in blocking. Freshman Brooke Fay leads the team with 56. Sophomore Corrinne Stringer is just behind with 44 blocks, while freshman Leah Flynn has 41. Junior Molly Bergkamp is also not far behind with 39 total blocks on the season.

Stringer and Bergkamp are also strong contributors offensively. Stringer averages 3.15 kills per set, second only to Cartagena, while Bergkamp averages 2.63.

SCOUTING NEBRASKA-OMAHA

The Lady Mavs are 17-7 overall and 7-4 in MIAA play. They have lost three straight five set matches, including a 17-25, 25-20, 16-25, 25-16, 16-14 loss to Missouri Southern in Omaha on Wednesday night.

UNO averages 17.22 points per set, including 13.61 kills, 1.09 service aces and 1.88 blocks. They are hitting at a .256 clip as a team and also average 15.86 digs per set.

Ellen Thommes leads the team with 3.27 kills per set and a .425 hitting percentage. She is also the team's leading blocker with 95 total blocks on the season for an average of 1.05 per set. Sara Kampschnieder (2.73), Kelli Goeser (2.88) and Lizzy Mach (2.11) also each average more than two kills per set.

Emily Myers is the team's setter. She averages 10.90 assists per set.

Angie Reicks leads the team in digs with 4.13 per set. Kampschnieder also helps out defensively in the back court, as she averages 2.98 digs per set.

PSU VS. NEBRASKA-OMAHA

UNO leads the all-time series with the Gorillas 2-7. UNO won the earlier meeting between the two teams this season in Omaha. The two teams split meetings last season, with each team winning on its home court.

LAST TIME VS. UNO

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.

LAST TIME OUT

After two close sets, the Gorilla volleyball team (17-9, 7-5 MIAA) led from start to finish in the third set to down Southwest Baptist (10-16, 3-7 MIAA) on Saturday afternoon, 3-0 (26-24, 25-22, 25-9).

Consistent hitting proved to be the key as Pitt State clinched the victory by outhitting SBU .216 to .081 even though Southwest Baptist scored 5.0 blocks to the Gorillas' 1.0.

Junior Molly Bergkamp led the Gorillas with a match-high 15 kills, hitting an impressive .500. Sophomore Corrinne Stringer joined Bergkamp in double digit kills with 12 of her own. Senior Emily Vosseler recorded a double-double with 12 digs and 33 assists. Junior Cassie Wilson led the team with 20 digs.

Ashley Jurgensmeyer was the only Bearcat with double figure kills (10) and Laura Noble recorded a match-high 23 digs.

PSU IN CONFERENCE ACTION

The Gorillas are 119-201 (.372) in conference action since joining the MIAA in 1989. That record improves to 79-91 (.465) since Head Coach Ibraheem Suberu took over the program in 1999 and to 35-22 (.614) over the last three seasons.

GORILLAS IN CONFERENCE STATS

Everyone in the MIAA, except league leader Central Missouri, now has at least two losses in conference play. The Gorillas, who are 7-5 in league play, are currently sixth in the league standings. Central Missouri leads the league with an 11-1 record. Emporia State is second at 9-2 and Washburn is third at 8-3. Nebraska-Omaha and Truman are tied for fourth with 7-4 records.

As a team, the Gorillas are fifth in hitting percentage and fourth in kills and assists. The team is second in digs. They are ninth in blocks, opponent hitting percentage and service aces.

Individually, Pamela Cartagena is second in the league in kills with 3.99 per set. She is also eighth in digs with 4.04 per set and third in points (4.26 pps). Emily Vosseler is second in assists with 11.19 per set and seventh in aces with 0.30 per set. Cassie Wilson ranks fourth in the league in digs with 4.67 per set. Corrinne Stringer is 10th on the kills list with 3.15 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.

RECORDS WATCH

Pamela Cartagena entered the season prepped to set new records for both career kills and career digs. She is currently third on the kills list with 1,679. That is still 146 away from the record of 1,825 set by Sammie Williams just last season and Cartagena needs to average 18.25 kills in each of the eight regular season matches remaining. If the Gorillas play at least one post-season match, that lowers the average need to 16.22 and each match the Gorillas play improve Cartagena's chances of breaking the record.

Cartagena is second on the all-time digs list with 2,109. She needs 217 for the school record, which is currently 2,326 set by Dina Wathan from 2000-03. She needs to average 27.13 digs a match to reach this record.

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.

One record Cartagena will definitely break is the record for career sets played. She is currently at 463 sets played. The record is 469 set by Dina Wathan from 2000-03.

Emily Vosseler has 1,085 assists on the season, which puts her eighth on the all-time single season list in that category. The record is 1,622 set by Sarah Brannock in 2006. Vosseler is also now second on the career assists list with 3,052. The record is owed by Megan Barth who had 3,580 from 1999-2002. Though the Gorillas would have to go deep in the post-season for Vosseler to break either record, she should be able to move up quite high on the list.

Cassie Wilson now ranks sixth on the career digs list with 1,109 and needs just 74 to move to fifth.

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.

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 19, 2009**

| No. | School | Points | Record | LR |
|-----|---------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. | Concordia-St. Paul (32) | 800 | 23-0 | 1 |
| 2. | UC San Diego | 760 | 20-1 | 3 |
| 3. | Cal State San Bernardino | 735 | 19-1 | 2 |
| 4. | Central Missouri | 705 | 24-3 | 4 |
| 5. | Nebraska-Kearney | 650 | 23-1 | 5 |
| 6. | West Texas A&M | 623 | 22-3 | 6 |
| 7. | Emporia State | 598 | 22-2 | 8 |
| 8. | Tampa | 563 | 20-2 | 9 |
| 9. | Washburn | 550 | 23-3 | 7 |
| 10. | Minnesota State | 498 | 20-2 | 10 |
| 11. | Indianapolis | 469 | 26-1 | 12 |
| | Minnesota Duluth | 469 | 18-4 | 11 |
| 13. | Lewis | 433 | 21-3 | 13 |
| 14. | Saint Leo | 402 | 20-2 | 14 |
| 15. | Southwest Minnesota State | 349 | 18-6 | 15 |
| 16. | Nebraska-Omaha | 312 | 17-6 | 16 |
| 17. | Hawaii-Hilo | 264 | 20-1 | 19 |
| 18. | Wayne State (Neb.) | 241 | 21-4 | 18 |
| 19. | Truman | 202 | 18-8 | 20 |
| 20. | Sonoma State | 179 | 16-5 | 17 |
| 21. | Metro State | 142 | 13-6 | 21 |
| 22. | Cal State LA | 111 | 15-6 | NR |
| 23. | Hillsdale | 95 | 16-3 | 23 |
| 24. | Wingate | 72 | 13-8 | NR |
| 25. | Chico State | 56 | 16-5 | 25 |

Others receiving votes and listed on two or more ballots: Eckerd 25; PITTSBURG STATE 24; Abilene Christian 18; West Alabama 17; Lynn 10; Alaska-Anchorage 4; California (Pa.) 4; West Florida 4.

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 dropped out of the top 25. The Gorillas are receiving the third most votes of teams not ranked in the top 25.

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 Vossler (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.

Vossler'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, Vossler 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.