



2009-10 SEASON OUTLOOK

By Dan Wilkes
Assistant AD/Media Relations

The 2009-10 basketball season opens the final chapter to a proud era at Pittsburg State University, but the impending campaign also aims to transcend time capsules.

Head coach Gene Iba will serve in his 15th and final season at Pitt State. The Gorillas mentor, who has led Pitt State to the school's first five NCAA Tournament appearances (1997-99, 2005, 2007) and an MIAA Championships (1999) during a decorated 14-year tenure, announced on Sept. 16 his intention to retire following the 2009-10 campaign.

He enters his 30th, and final, season as a collegiate coach with a 478-357 career mark, including a 252-154 record at Pitt State.

Iba returns five players who started two or more games a year ago, including three players with 12 or more starts. Additionally, five more veterans with one or two years' experience in the program return; and Iba and his staff welcome in eight newcomers – four transfers and four incoming freshman – to the squad.

The immediate goal: contend for a second Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association crown and a sixth trip to the NCAA Division II National Tournament in Iba's final season.

The long-term goal: continue the forward traction within the program that has been tediously crafted during the last decade-and-a-half.

"I've always said that my No. 1 goal has been that, when I walked away from coaching at Pitt State, I wanted to leave the basketball program in better condition than what I found it in back in 1995," Iba said. "I believe we are doing that.

"With that said, I believe we return a good nucleus to our basketball team, and we've signed some players who we think can help us both immediately and well into the future."

Trio of Seniors Lead Veteran Cast

Iba will look to a trio of seniors – guard **Spencer Magana** and forwards **Rodney Grace** and **Henry Rogers** – to provide leadership to his final Pitt State squad.

Magana (6-4, 192) begins his fourth season in the Pitt State program. The Dewey, Okla., native started 26 of 27 games for the Gorillas as a junior in 2009, averaging 12.4 points, 2.8 assists and hitting a team-leading 56 3-point field goals. Magana has scored 650 points (8.0 ppg) and made 108 3-point field goals in 81 career games (39 starts) – the eighth-highest total in school history.

"Spencer is as good an all-around two guard as any in the MIAA," Iba said. "He's been a very dependable player on both sides of the floor and we'll count on him to be a significant contributor again this year."

Grace (6-6, 195) returns for his second season with the Gorillas, after transferring to Pitt State from Des Moines (Iowa) Area Community College. The Omaha, Neb., native started 23 games as a junior, contributing 10.2 points and 5.7 rebounds per game, while shooting 50.6 percent from the field. He logged three double-doubles last season.

"Rodney has a chance to be one of the better forwards in the league this year," Iba said. "He's worked hard during the summer. He's shooting the ball better and he's more active."

Rogers (6-7, 195) also enters his second season at Pitt State, after transferring in from Hutchinson Community College. The Hutchinson native started a pair of games in 2009, finishing the season with a 2.6-point and 2.5-rebound average with increased production late in the year.

"Henry understands our system very well," Iba said. "He's a hard worker who knows his limitations but always realizes how to work around them. Henry is shooting the ball much better this year, which is encouraging."

Overall, Iba is pleased with his squad's senior leadership.

"We have better leadership than we have had in a number of years," Iba said. "We have three seniors who know this is their last shot, and they've been instrumental with helping our new guys adjust. Our other returners have played roles in that too."

Andy Smith, a fourth-year junior, also returns to the backcourt cast. After battling knee injuries in his first two seasons, Smith (6-1, 185) saw the court for the first time in 2009. The Dewey, Okla., native started 12 games, averaging 3.4 points and 1.5 assists per game. He contributed 6.1 points per game in PSU's last nine contests (all starts).

"Andy really came on late in the season last year running the point," Iba said. "He's been nicked up again this preseason but we'll hope he's ready to go in November. He brings a veteran presence to the one spot."

Junior forward **Seth Burris** also returns for his fourth year in the Pitt State program. Burris (6-7, 235) started four games and averaged 4.8 points and 3.4 rebounds in 16 games, before suffering a season-ending knee injury. The Parsons native's status is in doubt entering the preseason.

"Seth is still recovering from injury," Iba said. "We won't know for awhile what his status will be. He definitely can help us on the blocks if he can go."

Sophomore guards **Zach Quick** (6-4, 190) and **Bryan Campbell** (6-2, 175) also return for their third seasons in the Pitt State programs. Both players redshirted initially before seeing limited action in 2009.

A pair of redshirt freshmen – **Jordan Embers** (6-5, 205) and **Tim Enayati** (6-3, 195) – also return to the backcourt, while a third redshirt freshman – **Josh Walker** (6-8, 250) – will look to make an impact in the Pitt State frontcourt this year.



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Owens Heads Talented Newcomer List

Iba and his staff welcome in four transfers and four incoming freshmen to help shape the squad's 18-man roster.

Junior forward **Quincy Owens** headlines the cast of newcomers. Owens (6-8, 230) comes to Pitt State after two seasons at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas. The Milwaukee, Wis., native averaged 11.9 points, 7.8 rebounds and 1.0 blocked shots per game as a sophomore in 2009, earning second-team All-North Texas Conference (NTCAC) honors.

"Quincy is a proven commodity," Iba said. "We expect him to be an immediate impact player for us. He's had a great preseason, and he's shooting and rebounding the ball well."

A pair of wing players – **Mo Gunn** and **C.J. Masters** – also will look to impact the squad.

Gunn (6-4, 195) transfers to Pitt State from Garrett (Md.) College, in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. The Marlboro, Md., native earned first-team All-Conference and first-team All-Region honors as a sophomore in 2009, averaging 15.8 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

"Mo is an active wing player," Iba said. "He has good 'quicks' and shoots it well. He's been very interested in learning the mental aspect of the game, which is important for him grasping our system."

Masters (6-5, 195) comes to Pitt State most recently from Southern University-Shreveport. He averaged 13.6 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game as a sophomore in 2007. The Cedar Hill, Texas, native played as a freshman NCAA Division I Texas Christian University in 2006.

"C.J. is a good athlete who shoots the ball well," Iba said. "He's attentive to the little things he needs to learn in our system. We think he can really help us."



Junior guard **Brandon Coleman** rounds out the Gorillas transfers. Coleman (6-1, 190) comes to Pitt State from Highland Community College. The Kansas City, Mo., native earned first-team NJCAA All-Region VI honors as a sophomore in 2009, averaging 16.6 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.5 steals per game. He also hit 58 3-pointers in 31 games.

"Brandon brings as much enthusiasm to the court every day as any player we have," Iba said. "He shoots the ball well to the 3-point line and beyond. Brandon's the type of player who gives his team a lift by how hard he plays."

A quartet of talented freshman also have joined the Pitt State program.

Darian Kelly, a gifted local product, comes to Pitt State after initially signing to play football at the University of Kansas out of high school. Kelly (6-2, 190) earned second-team Kansas Class

4A All-State honors at nearby Girard High School in 2009, leading the Trojans to a 4A state runner-up finish.

"Darian is a promising prospect," Iba said. "Certainly he was the best high school player in southeast Kansas last year. His best basketball days are ahead of him."

JaVon McGee joins the Gorillas from Grandview (Mo.) High School. McGee (6-5, 225) helped lead Grandview to a 29-2 record and the Missouri Class 5A state runner-up finish in 2009. He earned All-Conference and All-Metro honors during his senior season.

"JaVon is a big, strong forward," Iba said. "He was just 17 when he came to campus. He's still growing. He will be a good addition for us."

Ian Ponds comes to Pitt State from Tulsa's Booker T. Washington High School. Ponds (6-0, 180) averaged 12 points per game and shot 43 percent from 3-point field goal range during his senior season. He helped the Hornets to a 23-4 record in 2009, as well as a state runner-up finish as a junior in 2008.

"Ian is a good athlete who brings a lot of excitement to the court," Iba said. "Like a lot of freshmen we'll look at him over the next several weeks to determine if he will play for us this winter or redshirt."

James Robinson joins the Gorillas from Kansas City's Oak Park High School. Robinson (6-1, 190) garnered Missouri Class 5A All-State honors as a senior in 2009, averaging 17 points, three rebounds and three assists per game. He was a three-time All-Conference performer.

"James is a freshman that we have high hopes for," Iba said. "He can play the one or two. He shoots the ball well and he can take it places. He has a strong upper body."

The 2009-10 Schedule

The Gorillas will challenge themselves immediately in their 2009-10 schedule. Pitt State will play a trio of exhibition games in a seven-day span against the likes of Kansas State (Nov. 8), Kansas (Nov. 10) and UNLV (Nov. 14).

"I don't know if anyone else in the country has a more challenging week on their schedule than that," Iba quipped.

Pitt State opens regular season play on Nov. 17, before hosting the Chatters/Comfort Inn Classic three days later. The non-conference season includes match-ups against former MIAA rival Missouri S&T (Nov. 21) and South Central Regional rival Newman (Nov. 24).

The Gorillas open their 20-game MIAA schedule by hosting Missouri Western on Dec. 2.

"There's always other conferences in Division II year-in and year-out that can claim that they have as good teams at the top of their leagues as the MIAA, but I think the overall depth and strength of the MIAA is unmatched," Iba said.

"When 75 percent of your schedule consists of conference games, it can wear you down. Our league has two teams (UCM, SBU) that look like they could contend for a national championship right now. There's several others, hopefully us included, who could factor in the mix by March, too. The league won't be lacking in good basketball games this winter, that's for sure."



2009-10 PITT STATE ROSTER

NO	NAME	POS	HT	WT	CL	EXP	HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL
0	Clarence "CJ" Masters	F	6-5	195	JR	TR	Cedar Hill, Texas/Southern University-Shreveport
1	Rodney Grace	F	6-6	195	SR	1L	Omaha, Neb./De Moines Area Community College
2	Spencer Magana	G	6-4	192	SR	3L	Dewey, Okla./Dewey High School
3	Jordan Embers	F	6-5	205	FR	RS	Louisburg, Kan./Louisburg High School
5	Brandon Coleman	G	6-1	190	JR	TR	Kansas City, Mo./Highland Community College
10	Ian Ponds	G	6-0	160	FR	HS	Tulsa, Okla./Booker T. Washington High School
12	Zach Quick	G	6-4	190	SO	SQ	Fort Scott, Kan./Fort Scott High School
14	Andy Smith	G	6-1	185	JR	1L	Dewey, Okla./Dewey High School
21	Tim Enayati	G	6-3	195	FR	RS	Diamond, Mo./Diamond High School
22	Bryan Campbell	G	6-2	175	SO	SQ	Nevada, Mo./Nevada High School
23	Quincy Owens	F	6-8	230	JR	TR	Milwaukee, Wis./Hill College
30	Francis "Mo" Gunn	G/F	6-4	195	JR	TR	Marlboro, Md./Garrett College
32	James Robinson	G	6-1	190	FR	HS	Kansas City, Mo./Oak Park High School
33	Darian Kelly	G	6-2	190	FR	HS	Girard, Kan./Girard High School
34	Henry Rogers	F	6-7	195	SR	1L	Hutchinson, Kan./Hutchinson Community College
42	Seth Burris	F	6-7	235	JR	2L	Parson, Kan./Labette County High School
44	JaVon McGee	F	6-5	225	FR	HS	Kansas City, Mo./Grandview High School
55	Josh Walker	F/C	6-8	250	FR	RS	Derby, Kan./Derby High School

Head Coach: Gene Iba (Tulsa, 1963)

Assistant Coaches: Derek Joiner (Oklahoma State, 2003), Matt Brock (Truman, 2005)

PSU ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

42	Seth Burris	F	6-7	215	JR	Parsons, Kan.
22	Bryan Campbell	G	6-2	170	SO	Nevada, Mo.
5	Brandon Coleman	G	6-1	190	JR	Kansas City, Mo.
3	Jordan Embers	F	6-5	187	FR-RS	Louisburg, Kan.
21	Tim Enayati	G	6-3	180	FR-RS	Diamond, Mo.
1	Rodney Grace	F	6-6	195	SR	Omaha, Neb.
30	Francis "Mo" Gunn	G/F	6-4	195	JR	Marlboro, Md.
33	Darian Kelly	G	6-2	190	FR	Girard, Kan.
2	Spencer Magana	G	6-4	192	SR	Dewey, Okla.
0	Clarence "CJ" Masters	F	6-5	195	JR	Cedar Hill, Texas
44	JaVon McGee	F	6-5	225	FR	Kansas City, Mo.
23	Quincy Owens	F	6-8	230	JR	Milwaukee, Wis.
10	Ian Ponds	G	6-0	160	FR	Tulsa, Okla.
12	Zach Quick	G	6-4	180	SO	Fort Scott, Kan.
32	James Robinson	G	6-1	190	FR	Kansas City, Mo.
34	Henry Rogers	F	6-7	195	SR	Hutchinson, Kan.
14	Andy Smith	G	6-1	185	JR	Dewey, Okla.
55	Josh Walker	F/C	6-8	250	FR-RS	Derby, Kan.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Tim Enayati... in-YAH-tee

Spencer Magana... MAG-uh-nuh

JaVon McGee... JAY-von

PERSONNEL SITUATION

Starters Returning (3)

	POS	HT	WT	YR
Rodney Grace	F	6-6	195	SR
Spencer Magana	G	6-4	192	SR
Andy Smith	G	6-1	185	JR

Starters Lost (2)

	POS	HT	WT	YR
TJ Stukes	F	6-8	220	JR
Carlos Taylor	G	6-3	160	SR

Letterwinners Lost (3)

	POS	HT	WT	YR
Jeff Ivory **	F	6-5	215	SR
Justin McCoy ****	F/C	6-8	255	SR
Carlos Taylor ****	G	6-3	160	SR

Letterwinners Returning (5)

	POS	HT	WT	YR
Seth Burris **	F	6-7	215	JR
Rodney Grace *	F	6-6	195	SR
Spencer Magana ***	G	6-4	192	SR
Henry Rogers *	F	6-7	195	SR
Andy Smith *	G	6-1	185	JR

* denotes letters earned