

Steve Bever, Head Coach

Steve Bever enters his 20th season as head coach of the Pittsburg State University baseball program.

Starting literally from scratch in 1991, Bever has hand crafted the Gorilla baseball program into one of the most successful programs in the Central Region of the NCAA Division II ranks.

Bever's formula for success has been an impressive one. He resurrected a defunct program in 1991, weathers the tough times early on in building the program from the ground up, then led the program's emergence onto the national scene with four NCAA Division II Regional appearances in a six-year span (1997, 1998, 1999, 2002).

He enters the 2010 campaign with a 510-442 (.536) career record.

The early signs that Pitt State would make its mark in Division II baseball came when the Gorillas posted a 30-win season in 1994 - just four years into the entire process. Pitt State narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA-II Regionals that year.

After a pair of .500 seasons followed, Bever engineered PSU's breakthrough season in 1997. The Gorillas rolled to a school-record 39 wins that year and earned the school's first trip to NCAA-II post season play. The Gorillas advanced all the way to the Central Regional finals before being upended a game away from reaching the Division II World Series.



The Gorillas returned to the NCAA-II Central Regional each of the next two years, enjoying 36-win seasons both times. In 1999, PSU captured its first MIAA title and the Gorillas again came a game away from reaching the Division II World Series.

In 2002, Pitt State matched its school record 39-win total and returned to the NCAA-II Central Regional for a fourth time in a 39-19 campaign. The Gorillas have narrowly missed the NCAA-II Regionals each of the last six seasons.

Since 1994, Pittsburg State has averaged 29 victories per season.

The Bever Chronology

Bever, a four-year starter at Pitt State from 1966-69 under coach Al Ortolani, assumed the head coaching duties of the Gorilla program in February of 1990, when university officials elected to bring back the national past-time to the PSU campus. (PSU had fielded a team from 1962-72, but discontinued the program prior to the 1973 season due to budget restraints.)

After a 19-year absence, Bever led the Gorillas into their first season of competition as a member of the MIAA and NCAA Division II.

The Gorillas posted a 15-32 record that year, including a 5-9 mark in the MIAA South Division.

In 1992, PSU notched a 17-26 overall mark. The Gorillas went 7-5 in MIAA South Division

BEVER'S CAREER COACHING RECORD AT PITT STATE

Year	Overall	Pct.	MIAA	Pct.	Post-Season
2009.....	15- 38	.283.....	12- 26	.315	
2008.....	22- 28	.440.....	16- 20	.444	
2007.....	24- 30	.444.....	15- 20	.429	
2006.....	27- 25	.519.....	17- 14	.548	
2005.....	29- 21	.580.....	16- 14	.533	
2004.....	34- 25	.576.....	17- 14	.548.....	MIAA Tournament
2003.....	32- 19	.627.....	15- 14	.517	
2002.....	39- 19	.672.....	19- 11	.633.....	NCAA-II Regionals
2001.....	26- 25	.510.....	13- 17	.433	
2000.....	29- 21	.580.....	15- 14	.517	
1999.....	36- 14	.700.....	12- 7	.632.....	MIAA Champions/ NCAA-II Regionals
1998.....	36- 16	.692.....	17- 5	.773.....	NCAA-II Regionals
1997.....	39- 18	.684.....	17- 7	.708.....	NCAA-II Regionals
1996.....	23- 25	.479.....	11- 7	.611.....	MIAA Tournament
1995.....	22- 22	.500.....	10- 10	.500.....	MIAA Tournament
1994.....	30- 20	.600.....	12- 4	.750.....	MIAA Tournament
1993.....	15- 18	.455.....	7- 8	.467	
1992.....	17- 26	.395.....	7- 5	.583	
1991.....	15- 32	.319.....	5- 9	.357	
TOTALS.....	510- 442	.536.....	253- 226	.528	

Bever vs. All Opponents

OPPONENT	W- L	LAST MET	RESULT	OPPONENT	W- L	LAST MET	RESULT
Arkansas	0- 3	4/17/02	L, 1-5	Morningside	17- 3	3/8/06	W, 17-11
Augustana, S.D.	4- 0	3/23/02	W, 9-8	Mount Marty	1- 0	3/10/04	W, 27-11
Baker	2- 0	3/11/99	W, 6-4	Nebraska-Kearney	3- 1	2/26/94	W, 7-1
Bemidji State	13- 0	3/16/05	W, 16-0	Nebraska-Omaha	2- 8	3/29/09	L, 2-8
Benedictine	2- 3	3/26/91	L, 1-2	Newman	3- 8	2/26/06	W, 7-6
Cameron	27- 24	2/8/09	L, 2-5	Northeastern State	13- 10	3/10/09	L, 1-5
Central Arkansas	0- 1	3/7/06	L, 4-22	Northern Colorado	1- 1	3/7/99	L, 3-6
Central Missouri	10- 49	2/27/09	W, 6-5	Northern State	11- 0	3/12/05	W, 22-7
Central Oklahoma	2- 10	3/12/96	L, 10-12	Northwest Missouri	27- 26	5/3/09	W, 8-6
Concordia-St. Paul	3- 3	3/11/07	W, 12-1	Northwestern, Iowa	3- 0	3/1/04	W, 16-0
Dakota Wesleyan	2- 0	3/4/98	W, 15-3	Oral Roberts	0- 13	2/11/98	L, 4-9
Drury	1- 1	4/30/08	W, 6-5	Ottawa	2- 0	3/10/99	W, 13-2
Emporia State	23- 30	4/15/09	L, 1-3	Panhandle State	3- 0	2/22/03	W, 13-1
Findlay	3- 0	3/8/07	W, 10-9	Quincy	2- 0	2/22/03	W, 10-9
Fort Hays State	9- 10	4/4/09	L, 2-3	Regis	0- 2	3/13/92	L, 2-7
Friends	4- 1	3/3/94	W, 11-2	Rockhurst	2- 4	2/22/00	W, 11-6
Grand Valley State	5- 2	3/7/07	W, 4-3	St. Edward's	0- 3	2/14/05	L, 10-11
Grandview	3- 1	3/11/06	W, 17-10	St. Olaf	3- 0	3/20/04	W, 3-1
Hamline	2- 0	3/21/95	W, 13-4	Sioux Falls	4- 0	3/28/06	W, 12-9
Henderson State	1- 0	3/20/00	W, 10-0	South Dakota State	4- 2	3/7/03	W, 8-3
Huron	3- 0	3/14/02	W, 17-5	Southeast Missouri	1- 2	4/7/91	L, 1-5
Iowa Wesleyan	1- 0	3/20/00	W, 8-1	Southern Arkansas	1- 1	3/18/03	W, 7-4
Jamestown	2- 0	3/9/02	W, 6-1	S'eastern Oklahoma	0- 2	3/7/04	L, 4-8
Kansas	1- 3	3/20/96	W, 14-12	So. Ill.-Edwardsville	3- 4	2/17/02	L, 7-8
Lewis	1- 0	3/16/01	W, 8-7	Southwest Baptist	47- 22	3/7/09	W, 18-14
Lincoln	21- 8	3/13/03	W, 9-3	SW Minnesota State	10- 5	3/2/08	L, 9-13
Mary, N.D.	0- 1	3/17/06	L, 4-5	Sterling	1- 0	3/8/03	W, 3-2
McKendree	1- 0	3/15/00	W, 5-2	Truman	41- 8	3/22/09	W, 23-20
Metro State	2- 0	3/7/03	W, 7-4	Upper Iowa	2- 5	3/14/09	L, 5-6
Midland Lutheran	1- 0	3/20/01	W, 6-2	Washburn	29- 33	4/18/09	L, 6-7
Minnesota Duluth	2- 2	2/26/07	W, 7-3	Wayne State, Neb.	12- 13	2/23/09	L, 8-10
Minnesota-Morris	5- 1	3/22/99	W, 8-0	West Texas A&M	2- 1	3/18/99	W, 11-0
Minnesota State	2- 0	5/13/99	W, 5-3	Winona State	0- 1	5/15/98	L, 5-7
Missouri-St. Louis	6- 15	3/11/02	W, 4-3	Wisconsin-Parkside	2- 0	3/14/98	W, 6-1
Missouri S&T	38- 12	3/9/08	W, 9-3	Wisconsin-Platteville	0- 1	3/13/06	L, 1-8
Missouri State	1- 5	3/13/01	L, 6-13	Wisconsin-River Falls	1- 0	3/27/97	W, 10-1
Missouri Southern	24- 43	4/11/09	L, 1-5	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	0- 1	3/16/93	L, 5-6
Missouri Valley	1- 1	3/9/94	L, 5-6	Wisconsin-Stout	2- 1	3/18/02	W, 6-1
Missouri Western	24- 31	4/25/09	L, 15-18	York, Neb.	1- 0	3/18/94	W, 25-4

2010 Opponents in Bold

play, but missed qualifying for the four-team conference playoffs by 1/2 game.

In 1993, Bever led PSU to a 15-18 overall record, including a 7-8 mark in the MIAA South. The Gorillas jumped out to a 7-3 start in conference play, before dropping their last five league games.

In 1994, Bever directed the Gorillas to a 30-20 season, including a 12-5 mark in the MIAA South and the program's first post-season berth since 1965. The Gorillas won their first-ever post-season games, sweeping two games from intrastate rival Emporia State in the first-round of the MIAA Tournament at Jaycee Park.

PSU then came an out away from upsetting perennial national power Missouri Southern, before falling, 8-7, and the Gorillas trailed eventual national champion Central Missouri by just a run after 7 1/2 innings before losing a hard fought 7-4 decision to end the season.

In 1995, PSU posted a 22-22 overall record and qualified for competition in the MIAA Tournament with a 10-10 MIAA South mark. The Gorillas bowed out of the playoffs in the first-round, dropping a 2-1 series decision to Northwest Missouri. PSU dropped a pair of one-run losses to the Bearcats after winning the first game of the three-game set. PSU lost a total of 10 games by two runs or less that year.

THE BEVER ERA HONOR ROLL

During Bever's tenure, PSU has produced:

- 8** NCAA Division II All-Americans
 - 24** All-Central Region Players
 - 48** All-MIAA Picks (1st, 2nd Team)
 - 8** CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
 - 18** CoSIDA Academic All-District Picks
 - 75** MIAA All-Academic Honorees
-

In 1996, PSU overcame a 4-9 start to finish the season with a 23-25 overall record. The Gorillas posted their first modern-era victory against a Division I opponent with a thrilling 14-12 win against the University of Kansas Jayhawks at Lawrence. PSU won four of its last six MIAA games to finish with an 11-7 conference mark and qualify for the MIAA Tournament.

In 1997, PSU enjoyed its best season ever, setting a school record for wins (39). The Gorillas victories included a 4-1 win against Division I Southwest Missouri, during a stretch when they won 24 of 28 games. PSU earned its first-ever national ranking in '97, finishing the season 24th

in the final poll.

PSU also virtually rewrote its record books, batting a whopping .364 as a team.

Despite bowing out of the MIAA Tournament in the semifinals, PSU still earned its first NCAA-II post-season berth, and the Gorillas made the most of their opportunity.

Marc Eddington, an All-America basketball player, pitched the Gorillas to a 5-3 win against Minnesota State in the opening round, before PSU fell twice to MIAA rival Central Missouri to end its season.

In 1998, Bever's Gorillas replicated their success. After opening the season 1-4, PSU won 11 of their next 13 games. PSU added an 11-game winning streak between March 26 and April 11 pushing its record to 26-9, and the Gorillas closed out the regular season by winning their final eight games to improve to 36-12.

After an early exit from the MIAA Tournament, PSU's 36-14 record earned the Gorillas a second straight trip to the NCAA-II Central Regional. MIAA rival UCM took a 10-2 decision against PSU and the Gorillas were unable to come back through the losers' bracket the next day, dropping a 7-5 decision to Winona State.

In 1999, PSU won its first-ever MIAA title in dramatic fashion. Needing to capture the conference championship to earn a third trip to the NCAA-II Regionals, PSU went 5-0 in the conference tournament to claim the league title. The Gorillas exorcised a demon by beating UCM for the first time in 15 tries to sew up the league title.

PSU then posted a 2-2 record in the Central Regional. After posting a win over Minnesota State, PSU lost a grueling 11-inning game to Rockhurst. The Gorillas bounced back with a second straight win over UCM, but PSU was unable to beat Rockhurst and the Hawks eliminated the Gorillas, 6-2, in the regional final to halt PSU's season.

In 2000, the Gorillas posted a 29-21 overall record and in 2001 PSU faltered down the stretch and finished 26-25 overall.

In 2002, Bever meshed new talent and guided the Gorillas to a fourth appearance in the NCAA-II Central Regional. PSU started the season 3-3, but the Gorillas tied a school record with 12 straight wins to begin to assert themselves.

PSU concluded the regular season with a 36-17 record, and, after the MIAA Tournament was scrapped due to inclement weather, the Gorillas advanced to the Central Regional.

The Gorillas sandwiched a 7-5 win over Nebraska-Omaha in between a pair of losses to MIAA nemesis Central Missouri before bowing out of the regional.

In 2003, Pitt State enjoyed another 30-win season, but the Gorillas came up just short in a return trip to the NCAA-II Central Regional.

The Gorillas posted a 32-19 overall record and a 15-14 mark in MIAA play.

In 2004, the Gorillas again enjoyed a 30-win season – finishing 34-25 overall – but PSU came up empty on an NCAA-II Regional berth after bowing out in the semifinals of the MIAA Tournament.

In 2005, Pitt State posted a 29-21 record. The Gorillas were victimized by six one-run losses, including four in MIAA play.

In 2006, Pitt State finished with a 27-25 record. The Gorillas again were victimized by close losses – five one-run games and four more two-run setbacks.

In 2007, Pitt State posted a 24-30 record. The Gorillas again battled a plethora of close losses, dropping seven one-run games and six two-run contests.

In 2008, Pitt State posted a 22-28 record and a 16-20 mark in MIAA play. The Gorillas suffered five one-run losses in MIAA play as well as two more two-run setbacks.

Last year, the Gorillas battled injuries throughout the season. Pitt State finished the season with a 15-38 record and a 12-26 mark in MIAA contests. The Gorillas lost 12 games by three or fewer runs, including six one-run decisions.

In addition to his coaching responsibilities, Bever serves as an assistant athletic director for home event administration.

Steve and his wife, Johna, have two adult children: Dawn and Gabe.

Dawn and her husband, Greg live in Wichita. They have two sons, Alex, 9, and Isaac, 6.

Dawn received her bachelor's degree in accounting at PSU in 1993. She is a CPA and a high school youth leader at their church. Greg, also a CPA, is the Vice President and Controller for LodgeWorks, a hotel management company. Alex and Isaac attend Maize schools. They both play baseball, basketball and soccer. Alex also plays guitar.

Gabe received his bachelor's degree from PSU in 1996 in wildlife biology, his master's degree in geology from Fort Hays State in 2000 and his PhD in vertebrate paleontology from the University of Texas in December of 2006. After working three years at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, he is currently working at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., as the Bateman Interdepartmental Research Fellow in the departments of geology and geophysics and ecology and evolutionary biology.

Gabe's wife, Amy Balanoff, a native of Austin, Texas received her bachelor's degree in geology and her master's degree in vertebrate paleontology from the University of Texas. Amy is currently completing her PhD in paleontology at Columbia University in New York City.

Gabe and Amy currently reside in Manhattan, New York.

Steve and Johna reside in rural Farlington, Kan.



2010 Pitt State Coaching Staff



Beau Schultz, Catchers/Hitters

Beau Schultz is in his third year as an assistant coach on the Pittsburg State University staff, returning to campus after a two-year absence. He was elevated to full-time assistant status on August 22, 2009.

Schultz works with the Gorillas catchers and provides hitting instruction to the Pitt State position players.

Schultz spent three years (2005-07) as a special education teacher, the last two years in the Carl Junction (Mo.) school district after working at Pittsburg High School for one year. He served as an assistant baseball coach at both PHS and CJHS, serving as

head freshman coach at Carl Junction.

The Independence, Kan., native garnered first-team All-MIAA, first-team All-Central Region and honorable mention NCAA Division II All-America honors as a catcher for the Gorillas as a senior in 2005. He finished his career as a three-time All-MIAA performer, earning honorable mention All-MIAA honors in his first two seasons in the Pitt State program (2003-04), after transferring to PSU from Cowley County Community College.

Schultz started 195 games for the Gorillas, compiling a .349 career batting average with 89 runs scored, 95 RBIs and a .988 career fielding percentage.

Schultz earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Pittsburg State in 2005.

Beau and his wife, Kelly, celebrated the birth of their first child, Bryor Graham, who was born on Jan. 13. The couple also are the proud parents of a daughter, Taylie, who turns six on Sept. 3.



Dr. Gary Grimaldi, Infielders

Dr. Gary "Doc" Grimaldi is serving in his second stint as an assistant coach with the Pittsburg State University baseball program.

Grimaldi, who previously served as an assistant for the Gorillas between 1994-2000, serves as Pitt State's infield coach.

He rejoined the Pitt State program in 2006 after spending five seasons as head baseball coach at Pittsburg High School, where he compiled a 77-34 (.694) overall record, leading the Purple Dragons to a SEK League title (2004) and a pair of berth into the Kansas Class 5A state tournament, including a third-place state finish in 2004.

Grimaldi was a four-year letterman and a three-year starter at second base at Pittsburg State from 1968-71. He and PSU head coach Steve Bever were teammates during the 1968 and 1969 seasons.

Grimaldi graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1971 with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He then earned his medical doctorate degree from the University of Kansas Medical School in 1974. After 12 years of private medical practice, Grimaldi returned to PSU in January of 1990 to assume the position of medical director/physician of the PSU Student Health Center, a position he maintained until December 2003. Since then, he has been in private practice in obstetrics/gynecology.

Gary and his wife, Debbie, have five children: Abbey, 33, Abi, 32, Gabe, 30, Will, 29, and Nate, 15, and three grandchildren: Will, 5, Kate, 4, and Lia, 2.

Debbie's father, Al Ortolani, served as PSU's head athletic trainer for 40 years (1956-95). He also was Pitt State's first baseball coach, serving in that capacity for the program's first 11 years (1962-72).



Brad Smith, Outfielders/Hitters

Brad Smith is in his first year as a graduate assistant coach on the Pittsburg State University staff, returning to campus after a three-year absence.

Smith works with the Gorillas outfielders.

Smith was a three-time All-MIAA performer for the Gorillas from 2004-06, after transferring to Pitt State from Cowley Community College.

Smith started 142 games for the Gorillas, batting .381 with 45 doubles, nine home runs, 117 runs scored and 106 RBIs.

He also garnered ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® honors following his senior season.

Smith earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with an emphasis in actuarial science in May 2006. Following graduation, he worked as an actuary in Louisville, Ky. at Humana, Inc., and in Kansas City, Mo., for Coventry Health Care, earning an Associate of the Society of Actuaries Designation in March of 2009.

He currently is pursuing a master's degree in mathematics at Pittsburg State.



Chris Reddout, Pitchers

Chris Reddout is in his first year as a volunteer assistant coach on the Pittsburg State University staff, returning to campus after a three-year absence.

Smith works with the Gorillas pitchers.

Reddout was an honorable mention All-MIAA performer as a senior for the Gorillas in 2006. The left-handed pitcher made 28 career starts for Pitt State during his three-year career (2004-06), posting a 15-10 overall record. He still ranks third on the Gorillas' career victories list.

Following his senior season, Reddout signed with the Toronto Blue Jays and he competed in the organization for two-and-a-half years. Following his professional career, he served as pitching coach at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in 2009.

Reddout earned a bachelor's degree in recreation administration from Pitt State in 2006 and he's currently pursuing a master's degree in sports and leisure service management.

Chris and his wife, Lisa, reside in Miami, Okla.



By Dan Wilkes
Assistant AD/Media Relations

After a disappointing 2009 season, Pittsburg State University baseball coach Steve Bever enters the 2010 campaign with cautious optimism about this potential of this year's unit.

Bever considers his 2010 recruiting class one of the most successful groups of his two-decade tenure. He hopes the squad's talent and depth can propel the Gorillas into the thick of the 2010 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association race and a bid for a return trip to the NCAA Division II Regionals.

Pitt State captured an MIAA crown in 1999 and Bever has led the Gorillas to four trips to the NCAA-II postseason, but PSU will be seeking its first postseason appearance since 2002.

The 2009 Gorillas labored through a 15-38 record due to a rash of injuries and nine one- or two-run losses on the year.

Five players who started 40 or more games in 2009 return to the program, including All-MIAA utility player **Jason Murphy**.

Bever also returns four pitchers with double-digit appearances in 2009, including three players who made seven or more starts.

"I feel like the glaring weaknesses of last season's team could be the strength of this year's group," said Bever, who enters the 2010 season with 510 career victories. "Defense and pitching depth are so much improved that barring injuries we could improve dramatically this season in those areas. I think we are much better, definitely much deeper, with offensive threats up and down the lineup. I don't think we will be a power hitting team, but should have a respectable team average. Hopefully, our improved pitching and defense

will give us opportunities to use some of these offensive strengths."

Pitching Staff

Pitt State lost its 2009 staff ace Tim Brown, who compiled a 7-3 record a year ago, but Bever welcomes back seven pitchers to his staff, including a pair of veteran redshirts, while mixing in six experienced transfers to the group.

Senior **Nate Templeton** and junior **Trent Kavanagh** return after starting nine games apiece in 2009.

Templeton (RHP, 6-6, 215) posted a 1-5 record with a 7.02 ERA in 59 innings of work last year, while Kavanagh (RHP, 6-3, 225) logged a 2-6 mark with a 6.54 ERA in 2009.

Both players will look to contend for starting roles on the pitching staff again this year.

Junior **Anthony Powell** (RHP, 6-2, 195), who started seven games in 2009, will look to spot start or work out of the bullpen, along with junior **Ryan Bartling** (RHP, 5-11, 210) and senior **Kyle Bates** (RHP, 5-10, 215).

Redshirt juniors **Ryan Hintze** (RHP, 6-3, 215) and **Tyler Link** (LHP, 6-5, 220) also are expected to be impact players this spring. Hintze figures to contend for a starting role, while Link is expected to see significant innings out of the bullpen.

Junior transfers **Scott Brady**, **Alex Schell** and **Ryan Sorell** all figure to contend for spots in the Gorillas' starting rotation.

Brady (LHP, 6-3, 185) posted a 6-3 record with a 2.50 ERA as a sophomore at Johnson County Community College in 2009, while Schell (RHP, 6-3, 205) compiled a 7-2 record with a 2.00 ERA at Cowley Community College last year, earning second-team All-Jayhawk Conference honors.

Sorell (RHP, 6-2, 195), who pitched at PSU as a freshman in 2007, returns to campus after two years at Cloud County Community College.

Junior transfers **Rick Carroll** and **Nick Herrera** figure to bolster the Gorillas' bullpen. Carroll (RHP, 6-0, 205) comes to PSU from Neosho County Community College, while Herrera (LHP, 6-3, 230) joins the squad from Barton County Community College.

Junior transfer **Zuke Zeller** (RHP, 6-2, 200), who also will compete for a starting role in the outfield, brings solid pitching credentials from Cowley C.C. and may vie for Pitt State's closer role.

"It is difficult to replace an ace pitcher like Tim Brown from last year's staff, but I feel that we have added several quality pitchers to the top of our rotation and we have added overall depth."

Infielders

Bever will look to a veteran cast of players to fill the Gorillas' infield roles in 2009, including a pair of players with All-MIAA credentials.

Murphy (6-0, 208) earned honorable mention All-MIAA honors in 2009, splitting time between third base, shortstop and catcher. He batted .280 with seven HRs, a team-leading 36 runs scored and 28 RBIs. The Bucyrus, Kan., native figures to see a majority of action at first base this spring.

Junior **Brian Dean** (6-0, 180) earned All-MIAA honors as a freshman in 2008, but injuries limited him to eight games a year ago. Dean figures to return to his starting role at third base this spring.

Junior **Taylor Sibala** (5-10, 185) has 75 career starts at second base for the Gorillas, and he figures to assume that role again this spring. Sibala hit .292 with nine doubles a year ago.

Junior transfer **Jeremy Graves** (5-11, 170) joins the squad from Southwestern Oregon Community College. He is a leading candidate for Pitt State's shortstop role.

Freshman transfer Willie Watt (6-4, 215) and freshman **Ryan Bilovesky** (6-2, 200) figure to see action at first base, while freshman **Kendall Delp** (6-0, 225) will battle for time at third base.

"After a very difficult season on the

infield in 2009, I feel our infield defense should be one of the strengths of our team," Bever said.

Outfielders

Seniors **Zach Potter** and **Rhett Rigby**, who were forced to split time between infield and outfield assignments in 2009, are expected to take primary roles in the outfield for the Gorillas this spring.

Potter (6-2, 190) batted .298 with three HRs and 23 RBIs in 2009. He also made a pair of pitching appearances last year and will strengthen Pitt State's bullpen again this year.

Rigby (6-0, 200) led the squad with eight HRs in 2009. He batted .289 with 25 RBIs.

Sophomore Luke McKown (5-8, 170) also returns after seeing action in 18 games in 2009.

Junior transfers **Luke Zeller** and **Jason Graves** and sophomore transfer **Chase Barnes** give Pitt State several options in the outfield.

Zeller was a two-time All-Jayhawk performer at Cowley. He batted .382 with 20 doubles and 58 RBIs in 2009.

Graves (5-11, 190) brings a lively bat from Southwestern Oregon C.C., while Barnes (6-1, 200) hit .387 with four HRs and 40 RBIs as a redshirt freshman at Crowder College in 2009.

"Our outfielders provide us with a lot of options. We have six outfielders that could see considerable playing time. Who gets the most will depend on situations, who is playing the best and who is healthy."

Catchers

Senior **Ryan Thayer** returns for his third season in the Pitt State program. Thayer (6-1, 190) has started 64 games for the Gorillas, bringing a veteran presence behind the plate.

Senior **Mitchell Mathis** (6-0, 190), who redshirted in 2009 after earning All-Jayhawk honors at Johnson County C.C., is back for a second season for the Gorillas, while redshirt junior **Jeremy Filer** (6-0, 190) also is back for a second year with the Gorillas.

"This is perhaps the deepest catching staff I have had," Bever said. "All three guys have the ability to be our starter. This trio will give us many options during the season."