

POINT PARK VOLLEYBALL 2009 SEASON PROSPECTUS

Pioneers picked to finish eighth in AMC

PITTSBURGH – The Point Park University volleyball team was picked to finish eighth in the American Midwest Conference in the 2009 NAIA Volleyball Conference Ratings preseason poll, which was released by the NAIA on Aug. 17.

After losing six seniors to graduation, the Pioneers are picked to finish in the same spot they found themselves in the conference standings at the end of last season. Point Park was 19-18 overall and 7-7 in the AMC in 2008 to finish in eighth place and one game out of the league playoffs.

Last year's regular season champion Walsh (29-13 overall, 13-1 AMC) was picked to finish first while AMC tournament champion Shawnee State (38-3, 12-2) was chosen second. The AMC has 13 teams, which is two less than last year. Ohio Dominican (23-11, 11-3) and Rio Grande (7-24, 0-14) are no longer AMC members.

Although the Pioneers are picked to finish in the bottom half of the league, that is probably due to the graduation of six players who helped turn the program around more so than anything. Gone are 2007 AMC North Player of the Year **Erin Sneider** as well as 2007 AMC North Setter of the Year **Kala Schnur**. Point Park also graduated **Heather Pegg** and **Ashley Santavy**, who each earned All-AMC North honors multiple times.

When those players were freshmen in 2005, first-year coach **Mike Bruno** inherited a team that had gone 0-18 in AMC play for three straight seasons. But Bruno, now in his fifth year, has led the Pioneers to a 72-74 record the last four seasons. Point Park made the AMC playoffs in 2006 and 2007 before falling one game shy last year.

And as the Pioneers try to put together their third straight winning season -- something that has never been done in school history -- the cupboard is hardly bare of talent for the 2009 edition of Point Park volleyball.

Tri-captains **Megan Lamens** (New Baltimore/Berlin Bros.), **Rachel Roddy** (Greensburg/Greensburg Salem) and **Ashley Zietak** (Pittsburgh/Brashear) provide veteran leadership, and they are joined by sophomore setter **Katie Geary** (Pittsburgh/Shaler) in giving Point Park four returning starters.

Lamens is the lone senior, and she teams with Zietak, a junior, in solidifying the front line as a pair of 6-0 middle hitters. Zietak was an All-AMC third team selection last year, one season after being named the AMC North Freshman of the Year. Lamens, who is in her second season at Point Park since transferring from NCAA Division III power Juniata, was an All-AMC honorable mention choice.

Roddy, a junior outside hitter, is in her second year as captain and is the Pioneers' leader on the floor. Roddy has an all-round game that has allowed her to rack up 931 digs and 744 kills her first two years. She had career highs of 538 digs and 414 as a freshman. At the end of the volleyball season, she will join the women's basketball team.

Geary split time with Schnur at setter in her freshman season, but is ready to build on the 559 assists that she recorded last season. Other returning letter winners include **Zoe Hughes** (Butler/Knoch), who had 184 digs and 152 kills, **Jen Poland** (Pittsburgh/Fox Chapel), who had 101 digs and **Cassandra Maxwell** (Burgettstown/Burgettstown), who saw action in 20 matches.

Among the key newcomers, Bruno has added three all-state players to his roster. With the addition of outside hitters **Ali Gendron** (Sheffield, Ohio/Brookside) and **Lindsey Oberacker** (Erie/McDowell) and right-side hitter **Kirsten Burkes** (Robinson/Montour), the Pioneers now have five all-state players on their team. Roddy and Hughes were each named all-state during their high school careers.

Bruno is in his 10th year as a head coach on the college level. Prior to Point Park, he spent five years at Waynesburg and amassed a record of 116-58. He enters the 2009 season 12 wins shy of 200 in his career (188-132).

TOP RETURNING PLAYERS

ASHLEY ZIETAK (MH, 6-0, Jr., Pittsburgh/Brashear): A two-time All-AMC performer, Zietak has emerged as one of the top middle hitters in the conference. She was an All-AMC third-team choice last year after ranking among the league leaders in hitting (.328), aces (65) and blocks (79). Her 345 kills were second on the team. She was the AMC North Freshman of the Year and a first-team All-AMC North selection as a freshman in 2007.

RACHEL RODDY (OH/OPP, 5-9, Jr., Greensburg/Greensburg Salem): Roddy has been among the team leaders in kills and digs the last two years, and she is the Pioneers' best all-around player. She led the team with 393 digs last year and tallied 330 kills. Roddy was a member of the All-AMC North Freshmen team in 2007 when she posted career highs of 538 digs and 414 kills. Roddy will join the women's basketball team at season's end.

MEGAN LAMENS (MH, 6-0, Sr., New Baltimore/Berlin Bros. Valley): The lone senior on the team, Lamens is in her second season with the Pioneers since transferring from NCAA Division III power Juniata. Lamens led the team in kills with 403 and was 10th in the AMC in kills per game (3.1). Lamens, who was an All-AMC honorable mention choice, joins Zietak and Roddy as a team captain.

KATIE GEARY (S, 5-9, So., Pittsburgh/Shaler): Geary was one of two setters in the rotation last year and she handed out 559 assists as a freshman. She had eight matches with 20 or more assists, and the 5-9 Geary was third on the team with 30 blocks. Geary is one of four returning starters, and she was the only freshman to play in all 37 matches.

ZOE HUGHES (OH, 5-9, So., Butler/Knoch): Hughes had a solid freshman season after placing fifth on the team in kills (152) and fourth on the team in digs (184). She played in 32 matches and 98 games, and is one of three returning players who posted 100 or more digs. As a member of the Point Park softball team, Hughes batted .354 and was an All-AMC honorable mention selection last year.

TOP NEWCOMERS

KIRSTEN BURKES (OPP., 6-0, Fr., Robinson/Montour): As a senior at Montour, Burkens earned a spot on the PVCA Class AA all-state team in 2008. She was a two-time WPIAL Class AA first-team selection.

ALI GENDRON (OH, 5-9, Fr., Sheffield, Ohio/Brookside): As a senior at Brookside, Gendron was named All-Ohio Division II third team and was the Player of the Year in the Patriot Athletic Conference and Lorain County (Division II).

LINDSEY OBERACKER (OH, 5-11, Fr., Erie/McDowell): As a senior at McDowell, Oberacker was named PVCA Class AAA all-state and the Region 6 Player of the Year. Oberacker also earned all-region and all-district honors.

HEAD COACH MIKE BRUNO (Robert Morris '90)

Bruno is in his fifth year as head coach at Point Park, and with a record of 72-74, he is the volleyball program's all-time leader in victories. He is the longest-tenured coach in the history of the program, which was started in 1991. In 10 years as a head coach, Bruno has a career record of 188-132. He was 116-58 in five years at Waynesburg (2000-04). He has been named Coach of the Year on four occasions, including 2006 when he was the AMC North Coach of the Year. He was named Coach of the Year in the President's Athletic Conference in 2000, 2003 and 2004.

BRUNO AT POINT PARK

Year	Record (Conf.)	Awards/Postseason
2008	19-18 (7-7)	
2007	25-14 (9-5)	AMC Tournament
2006	13-20 (6-8)	AMC North Coach of the Year, AMC Tournament
2005	15-22 (3-15)	
Overall	72-74 25-35	

2009 QUICK FACTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Pittsburgh, Pa.
Founded: 1960
Enrollment: 3,800
Nickname: Pioneers
Colors: Green and Gold
Affiliation: NAIA
Conference: American Mideast
Facility (capacity): Greentree SportsPlex (200), 600 Iron City Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15205

COACHING STAFF

Head coach: Mike Bruno (Roberts Morris '90)
Years at Point Park: fifth season
Record at Point Park: 72-74 (.493)
Years as head coach: 10th season
Overall record: 188-132 (.588)
Assistant coach: Neal Brown (Penn State), third season

TEAM INFORMATION:

2008 overall record: 19-18
2008 conference record: 7-7 AMC
2008 conference finish: 8th
Playoff result: NA
Starters returning/lost: 4/2
Letter winners returning /lost 7/5

PROGRAM HISTORY

First year of sport: 1991
All-time record: 162-361 (.309)
Years in AMC playoffs: 2 (2006, 2007)
Years in NAIA playoffs: NA
Last postseason opponent: Malone (2007)
Last postseason result: L, 3-2

POINT PARK VOLLEYBALL ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown/High School/Previous School
Amanda Ardinger	DS	5-5	Fr.	Moon/Moon Area
Kirsten Burkes	RS/OPP	6-0	Fr.	Robinson./Montour
Ali Gendron	OH	5-9	Fr.	Sheffield, Ohio/ Brookside
Katie Geary	S	5-9	So.	Pittsburgh/Shaler
Margaret Gillooly	DS	5-5	Fr.	Cranberry Twp./Seneca Valley
Alyssa Hall	DS/S	5-5	Fr.	Moon/Moon Area
Zoe Hughes	OH	5-9	So.	Butler/Knoch
Chelsea Johnson	OPP/DS	5-7	Fr.	Pittsburgh/Carrick
Megan Lamens	MH/OH	6-0	Sr.	New Baltimore/Berlin Bros. Valley/Juniata
Cassandra Maxwell	OH	5-8	So.	Burgettstown/Burgettstown
Angela Nelson	DS/OPP	5-7	Jr..	Meadville/Meadville Area
Lindsey Oberacker	OH	5-11	Fr.	Erie/McDowell
Jen Poland	OH	5-7	So.	Fox Chapel/Fox Chapel
Rachel Roddy	OH/OPP	5-9	Jr.	Greensburg/Greensburg Salem
Rachel Stedina	MH	6-1	So.	South Beaver/Blackhawk
Amanda Wenger	OH	5-9	Fr.	Warren/Warren
Ashley Zietak	MH	6-0	Jr.	Pittsburgh/Brashear

Head coach: Mike Bruno (Robert Morris '90), fifth season

Assistant coach: Neal Brown (Penn State), third season

2009 POINT PARK VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

Day/Date	Opponent/Event	Time
Sat., Aug. 22	at Wheeling Jesuit (Scrimmage)	TBA
<i>Fri.-Sat. Aug. 28-29 at Clarion Tournament, Clarion, Pa.</i>		
Fri., Aug. 28	vs. Tiffin	6 p.m.
Sat., Aug. 29	vs. Ohio Dominican	10 a.m.
Sat., Aug. 29	vs. Clarion	4 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 2	at Fairmont State	7 p.m.
<i>Sat.-Sun., Sept 4-5 at Davis & Elkins Tournament, Elkins, W.V.</i>		
Sat., Sept. 4	vs. West Virginia Wesleyan	11 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 4	vs. Pitt-Johnstown	3 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 5	vs. Ohio Valley	11 a.m.
Sun., Sept. 5	vs. West Virginia Tech	3 p.m.
<i>Fri-Sat., Sept. 11-12 vs. PIONEER-HAMPTON INN INVITATIONAL, Greentree, Pa.</i>		
Fri., Sept. 11	vs. LAKE ERIE	3 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 12	vs. DAVIS & ELKINS	12 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 12	vs. FAIRMONT STATE	2 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 16	vs. DAVIS & ELKINS	7 p.m.
<i>Fri-Sat., Sept. 18-19 at Carnegie Mellon Tournament, Pittsburgh, Pa.</i>		
Fri., Sept. 18	vs. Frostburg State	2 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 18	vs. John Carroll	6 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 19	vs. Muskingum	10 a.m.
Sat., Sept. 19	vs. Westminster	2 p.m.
Tue., Sept. 22	vs. CARLOW*	7 p.m.
Fri., Sept. 25	vs. NORTHWESTERN OHIO*	1 p.m.
Tue., Sept. 29	vs. NOTRE DAME*	7 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 2	at Cedarville*	TBA
Sat., Oct. 3	at Shawnee State*	11 a.m.
	vs. Ohio Dominican* (at Shawnee State)	1 p.m.
Tue., Oct. 6	at Walsh*	7 p.m.
<i>Fri., Oct. 9-10 at Clearwater Christian Tournament, Clearwater, Fla.</i>		
Fri., Oct. 9	vs. Southern Wesleyan	2 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 9	vs. Trinity Christian (Ill.)	6 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 10	at Clearwater Christian	9:30 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 10	vs. Highlands Community College (Ill.)	11:30 a.m.
Sat., Oct. 17	at Mt. Vernon Nazarene*	11 a.m.
	vs. West Liberty State (at Mt. Vernon Nazarene)	1 p.m.
Thur., Oct. 22	vs. LAROCHE	4 p.m.
	vs. MALONE*	7 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 24	at Daemen*	1 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 28	at Slippery Rock	7 p.m.
<i>Sat., Oct. 31, VOLLEY FOR VISION, Greentree, Pa.</i>		
Sat., Oct. 31	vs. HOUGHTON*	1 p.m.
Tue., Nov. 3	vs. URSULINE*	7 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 7	vs. Rio Grande (at Roberts Wesleyan)	1 p.m.
	at Roberts Wesleyan*	3 p.m.

HOME MATCHES LISTED IN BOLD CAPS

Home matches played at Greentree SportsPlex, Greentree, Pa.

*American Mideast Conference match

2009 NAIA VOLLEYBALL CONFERENCE RATINGS (Preseason poll, Aug. 17)

AMERICAN MIDEAST CONFERENCE

The AMC preseason poll is very similar to last year's final standings with a few slight differences. Third-place Ohio Dominican (11-3 AMC) is no longer in the league, but Notre Dame (6-8), which finished ninth last year, was picked sixth this year. Otherwise, the top eight places include the same teams with a slightly different order.

After Walsh and Shawnee State, the top 10 is rounded out by Mount Vernon Nazarene (36-11, 10-4), Cedarville (27-12, 10-4), Malone (24-15, 9-5), Notre Dame (19-13, 6-8), Northwestern Ohio (26-11, 9-5), **Point Park** (19-18, 7-7), Daemen (12-23, 6-8) and Roberts Wesleyan (17-19, 6-8). Teams that were not rated were Ursuline (12-21, 3-11), Houghton (12-18, 2-12) and Carlow (7-22, 1-13).

The NAIA will release its Coaches' Top-25 Preseason Poll Tuesday.

2008 AMC VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS (Final)

School	AMC	Overall
Walsh	13-1	29-13
Shawnee State	12-2	38-3
Ohio Dominican*	11-3	23-11
Mt. Vernon Nazarene	10-4	36-11
Cedarville	10-4	27-12
Northwestern Ohio	9-5	26-11
Malone	9-5	24-15
Point Park	7-7	19-18
Roberts Wesleyan	6-8	17-19
Daemen	6-8	13-23
Ursuline	3-11	12-21
Houghton	2-12	12-18
Carlow	1-13	7-22
Rio Grande*	0-14	7-24

*No longer in the AMC beginning in 2009

AMC TOURNAMENT

Nov. 14-15, 2008 at Shawnee State, Portsmouth, Ohio

Nov. 14

4 Cedarville def. 5 Northwestern Ohio, 25-23, 13-25, 25-17, 22-25, 15-8

3 Mt. Vernon Nazarene def. 6 Malone, 25-16, 25-21, 25-20

Nov. 15

1 Shawnee State def. 4 Cedarville, 25-23, 13-25, 25-17, 22-25, 15-8

2 Ohio Dominican def. 3 Mt. Vernon Nazarene, 25-22, 21-25, 18-25, 25-21, 15-13

1 Shawnee State def. 2 Ohio Dominican, 25-13, 25-23, 25-13 (Championship)