

The



# Cherry Picker

The newsletter of the Pitt-Johnstown Men's Basketball Team



January 2025

## WE'RE BACK!

Definition of a cherry picker- A player who positions themselves near the basket, away from the main defensive action, waiting for an easy pass to score an uncontested shot.

Hey alumni, fans, friends and supporters of the program, welcome to 2025! Pitt-Johnstown men's basketball is excited to bring back the Cherry Picker for the first time in 26 years.

Before 2024 concluded, senior Ryan Smith scored his 1000th point against Shepherd on December 21st, 2024. Smith became the 35th 1000-point scorer for the Mountain Cats and is currently the 24th all-time leading scorer. Smith is having a great senior season and averages 16.1 points per game.



Ryan Smith being recognized for his 1000th point.

# Recent Games

The Cats have had their share of close games in the 2025 season.

On January 8, the Cats fell to Edinboro 72-71 with a last-second opportunity to win but rimmed out. Ryan Smith led the Cats with 15 points, followed by Sean Dillon Jr. with 13 points. Vinnie Cugini and Nick Watts led the Cats in rebounding with 6 rebounds, followed by Ryan Smith with 5 rebounds.

On January 11, the Cats held on to a hard-fought 68-65 win at Clarion against the Golden Eagles. Before the Mountain Cats came in, the Golden Eagles had a 5-1 home record at Tippin Gymnasium. Ryan Smith led the Cats in scoring with 20 points and Adam Bilinsky had a season-high 16 points. Baden Forup led the Cats with 11 rebounds, followed by Ryan Smith with 7 rebounds.

On January 15, the Cats fell 84-73 to IUP, but played a great second half, cutting a 21-point deficit to 5 points. Ryan Smith led the Cats with 21 points, followed by Sean Dillon Jr. with 13 points. Baden Forup led the Cats with 7 rebounds, followed by Sean Dillon Jr. with 6 rebounds.

On January 18, the Cats defeated the California (PA) Vulcans in the Sports Center 105-93. Before coming to Johnstown, the Vulcans had won three games in a row. Baden Forup led the Cats with a season-high 24 points, followed by Ryan Smith with 22 points. Will Kromka led the Cats with 9 rebounds, followed by Baden Forup with 7 rebounds. Nick Watts, Sean Dillon, and Jay Rose distributed 4 assists each.

This Wednesday, the Cats will go to Gannon to face a hot Golden Knights team in their newly renovated Highmark Events Center. The Knights have won 15 of their last 16 games.

Stay tuned for more exciting news on the 2025 season!



# Cats n' Stats

The 2024-25 Mountain Cats are in an array of PSAC statistical categories. Here is where we stand:

## Team:

Offense: 5th (81.9 PPG)

Field Goal Percentage: 2nd (47.7%)

3-Point Field Goal Percentage: 6th (35.0%)

Free-Throw Percentage: 3rd (76.6%)

Offensive Rebounds: 6th (12.6 ORPG)

## Individuals:

Scoring: Ryan Smith- 12th (16.1 PPG)

Field Goal Percentage: Baden Forup- T-3rd (58.1%)

3-Point Field Goal Percentage: Jay Rose- 3rd (42.3%)

Free-Throw Percentage: Ryan Smith- 9th (82.5%)

Assists: Sean Dillon- 4th (4.7 AST)



# PSAC West Standings

1. Gannon (10-0 Conf.) (15-3 Overall)
2. Slippery Rock (6-5 Conf.) (10-9 Overall)
3. Edinboro (5-5 Conf.) (9-8 Overall)
4. IUP (5-5 Conf.) (9-8 Overall)
5. California (PA) (5-6 Conf.) (10-9 Overall)
- 6. Pitt-Johnstown (5-6 Conf.) (9-9 Overall)**
7. Clarion (4-7 Conf.) (9-8 Overall)
8. Seton Hill (3-7 Conf.) (10-8 Overall)



# 2024-25 Men's Basketball Roster

## Players:

#0 Sean Dillon Jr. (Gr.)

#1 Jay Rose (Fr.)

#2 Vinnie Cugini (So.)

#5 Adam Bilinsky (So.)

#8 Will Kromka (Jr.)

#10 Tanner Barkley (Fr.)

#15 Ty Bilinsky (R-Jr.)

#23 Ryan Smith (Sr.)

#32 Baden Forup (So.)

#40 Elijah Sechler (R-Jr.)

#50 Nick Watts (R-So.)

Craig Jarvis (Rs.)

Noah Prosser (Rs.)

Keegan Smetanka (Rs.)

Nate Sprajcar (Rs.)

## Coaches:

Bob Rukavina (Head Coach)

Pat Grubbs (Assistant Coach)

John Sanow (Assistant Coach)

Nick Rukavina (Assistant Coach, Social Media Director)

