

THE  
OLYMPIC  
SPORTS COMPLEX

ONLY BIG  
DREAMS



# The first step to achievement is aspiration.

*Aspiration is the seed, once planted, that grows into greatness.*

aspiration.



**Mark A. Nordenberg**

*Chancellor and  
Chief Executive Officer*

Mark A. Nordenberg is chancellor and chief executive officer of the University of Pittsburgh. In this role, he heads one of the nation's leading public research universities and one of the oldest institutions of higher learning west of the Allegheny Mountains. Chancellor Nordenberg is the University's 17th chancellor, and the summer of 2009 marked the 14th anniversary of his move into the chancellor's office.

**His tenure has been distinguished by a remarkable record of sustained institutional success for our University.** In terms of overall performance, for the second consecutive year Pitt was ranked in the very top cluster of America's public research universities in the annual assessment of *The Top American Research Universities*. Only seven universities were included in the Center's very top cluster – Berkeley, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, Pitt, UCLA and Wisconsin.

The University also advanced on two key measures of research strength. In terms of National Institutes of Health grants attracted by members of our faculty, we moved into sixth place nationally. In terms of total federal science and engineering research and development grants won by our faculty, Pitt now ranks 11th nationally.

In terms of student achievement, Pitt undergraduates continued to win national honors, adding to a list of awards that, just since 1995, includes two Rhodes Scholarships, six Marshall Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, four Udall Scholarships, one Churchill Scholarship, 31 Goldwater Scholarships, and three Mellon Humanities Fellows. And, this past year, Pitt students visibly demonstrated their fond feelings about their University by sponsoring an "I Love Pitt Day."

In short, the University of Pittsburgh is enjoying a tremendous period of significant, and often spectacular, progress – a real credit, as the Chancellor likes to say, to the talented and committed people of Pitt.

## ONLY BIG DREAMS

The University of Pittsburgh began with the aspirations of Hugh Henry Brackenridge, who moved to the small frontier village of Pittsburgh in 1781 with the desire "to advance the country and thereby myself."

Brackenridge founded "Pittsburgh Academy" in 1787. The academy, modestly born in a log cabin, is now 222 years old and an internationally recognized center of learning and research.

### To aspire is to dream.

### And if one can dream, why not dream big?

In 1921, newly named Pitt Chancellor John Bowman aspired to give the Oakland campus a distinguishable landmark that would make an impression on the city and beyond. The result was the Cathedral of Learning, an iconic 42-story structure that stands as the tallest academic building in the western world and a symbolic beacon of the pursuit of knowledge.

More recently, the University of Pittsburgh charted an ambitious course with the stated goal of firmly placing itself among the finest institutions in the country.

In 2000, Pitt ranked in the fourth cluster of top public universities in a report issued by the Center for Measuring University Performance. Fast forward less than a decade later and Pitt's aspirations have grown into a truly remarkable academic success story.

According to the latest report of *The Top American Research Universities*, Pitt now ranks in the very top cluster of public research universities for overall performance. That group includes such prestigious company as Berkeley, Illinois, Michigan, UCLA, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

"Only Big Dreams" is the driving philosophy of the Pitt Athletic Department. Inspired by the lofty ambitions and achievements of the greater university, Pitt Athletics is also working to place itself among the country's finest overall programs and enhance the student-athlete experience to the highest degree.



# THE OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPLEX

The University of Pittsburgh aspires to be great – in each and every endeavor it undertakes. That includes intercollegiate athletics, which are an important extension of the classroom experience.

**The lessons learned and values shaped through sport last a lifetime.**

*That's why Pitt is striving to give its student-athletes the opportunity to compete – and succeed – at the very highest levels.*

It was that ambition that helped inspire the conceptualization and construction of the Petersen Events Center. In addition to being a major hub for campus activity 12 months a year, the Petersen Events Center has gained a reputation as one of the country's finest college basketball venues. Not by coincidence, Pitt's men's and women's basketball programs have enjoyed unprecedented success this decade and have emerged as another tremendous source of "Pitt Pride" in the new century.

The Petersen Events Center, as well as Pitt's other national-caliber facilities such as Heinz Field, the UPMC Sports Performance Complex and the recently renovated Fitzgerald Field House and Trees Pool, symbolize our high ambitions. These facilities emphatically convey to our student-athletes – and future student-athletes – that Pitt aims to compete with the very best.

# ONLY BIG DREAMS

**A dream you dream alone is only a dream.**

**A dream you dream together is a reality.**

– John Lennon



Similar to the blueprint Pitt began cultivating in 2000 to entrench itself among the country's finest universities, Pitt Athletics is intent on doing the same from a student-athlete perspective.

Envisioned is a new complex that will provide state-of-the-art homes for Pitt baseball, softball, men's and women's soccer, and men's and women's track and field. Currently these programs are lacking on-campus homes or are competing in aged and limited facilities.

This complex will transform 12 acres of land at the peak of campus, not only giving Pitt student-athletes nationally competitive facilities, but also rejuvenating an untapped area that neighbors the University of Pittsburgh campus.



*"Pitt ranks among the best in the world academically and wants to achieve at that same high level athletically. I am incredibly excited about the plans for a new Olympic sports facility. Not only will the facility enhance the Pitt student-athlete experience but it also will make our outstanding University even greater with the opportunities it provides."*

**Jessica Dignon**, (CAS '08), three-time All-Big East honoree and the first Pitt softball student-athlete to play professionally



*"A commitment to this project is an investment in the future of a great university and athletic program. My wife Fran and I are committed to making this facility a reality because of the tremendous impact it will have on the Pitt student-athlete experience."*

**Charles L. "Corky" Cost**, (ENGR '58), Pitt football, basketball and baseball letterman



*"I have had the honor and privilege to experience firsthand the rich tradition of Olympic sports at the University of Pittsburgh. My Pitt experience continues to impact my life to this very day, so I want to ensure that current and future generations of student-athletes have that same lifelong benefit."*

**Herbert Douglas Jr.**, (EDUC '48, M.Ed. '50), 1948 Olympic Bronze Medalist in the long jump, Pitt track and football letterman

# THE OLYMPIC SPORTS COMPLEX

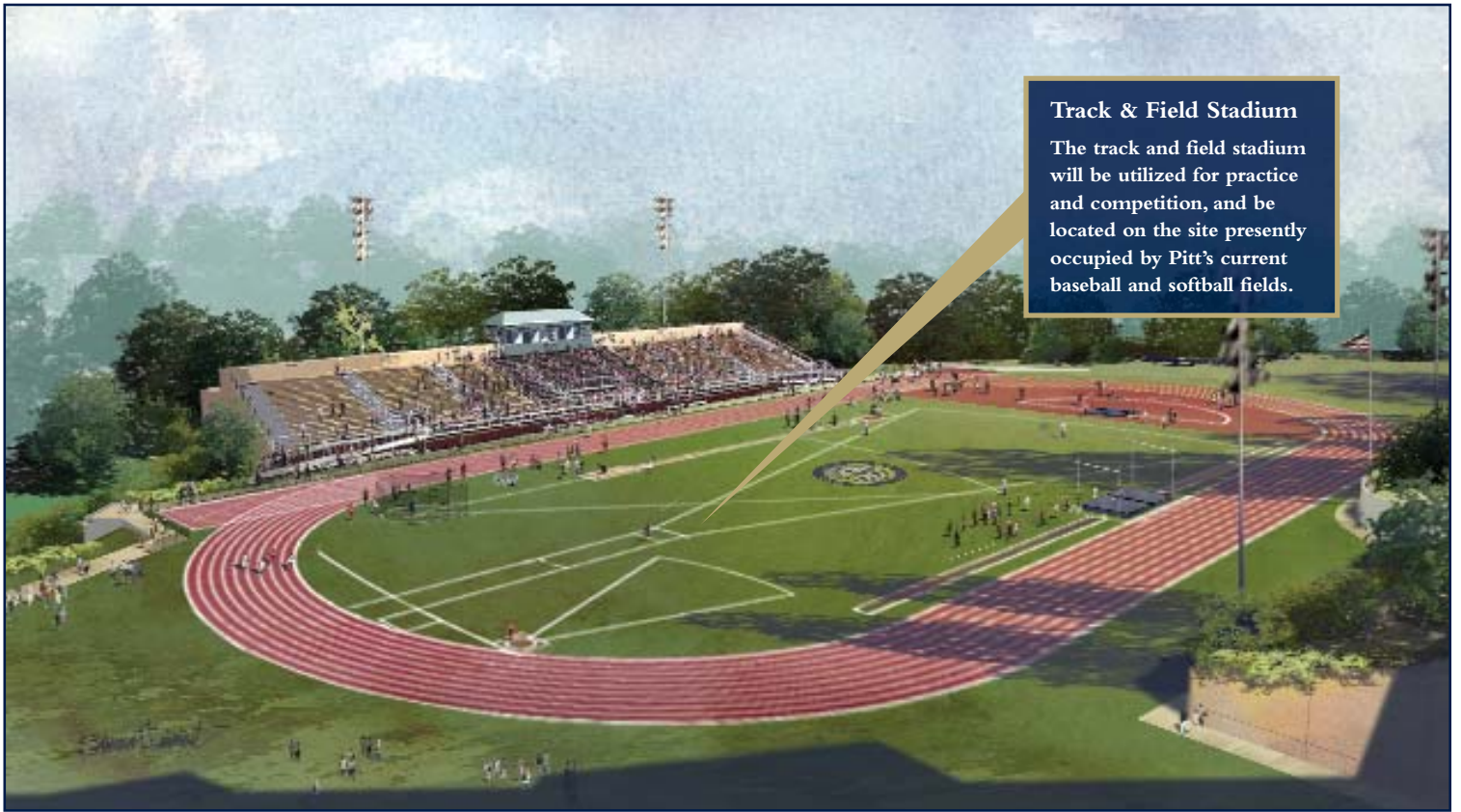
► Combined with the premier venues of Heinz Field, the Petersen Events Center, the UPMC Sports Performance Complex, and the newly renovated Fitzgerald Field House and Trees Pool, this complex will offer students, parents and fans an enthralling sports experience that stretches from Oakland to the North Shore to the booming South Side.

**Baseball Stadium**  
Baseball will include a press box, team dugouts and hitting and pitching practice areas. Synthetic grass will extend the ability to practice and play throughout the year and lighting will allow for evening games.

**Soccer Stadium**  
The men's and women's soccer stadium will be a practice and competition venue, complete with synthetic grass field, lighting and a press box.

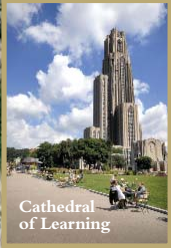
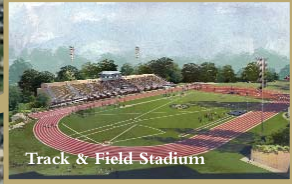
**Softball Stadium**  
Softball will have a skinned infield with an artificial grass outfield, along with lighting. The stadium will include team dugouts, hitting and pitching practice areas and a press box.





**Track & Field Stadium**  
 The track and field stadium will be utilized for practice and competition, and be located on the site presently occupied by Pitt's current baseball and softball fields.

► The Olympic Sports Complex will transform 12 acres of unused land into a major attraction for the kind of top-performing students and athletes who can elevate the quality of our Olympic sports programs while competing academically to achieve all that an education at the University of Pittsburgh has to offer.



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ONLY **BIG**  
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