

HEAD COACH JOE JORDANO



“We are getting it done here. We are building a winning baseball program. This takes patience, perseverance and a great dedication to the process.”

Head Coach Joe Jordano
2004 Big East Coach of the Year

There have not been many baseball programs in the past seven years that have experienced such a dramatic turn-around than the Pittsburgh Panthers. This success in part is due to the leadership of head coach Joe Jordano, who enters his eighth year at the helm of the Panthers. Pittsburgh has won nearly 200 games, has been nationally-ranked on several occasions, has sent numerous players to the professional ranks and has established themselves as a force in the highly competitive Big East Conference. In 2004, Jordano was named Big East Coach of the Year, the fourth time in his career that he has earned coach of the year honors.

Over the past seven seasons, Coach Jordano has been an architect. He has re-designed and rebuilt the Pittsburgh Panthers' baseball program. Upon his hiring, Jordano committed himself and his staff to establishing a program that not only the department would be proud of, but the University and the city of Pittsburgh would be as well.

In the past three seasons alone, Jordano has put together the best three-year winning stretch in the program's 96-year history, capturing a total of 110 wins, including 36, 36 and 38 each year. The 38 wins tied for the second-most victories in a single season. The 2004 season also saw the Panthers make a return visit to the Big East Championship in Somerset, N.J. The accolades were numerous. In addition to Jordano being named Coach of the Year, P.J. Hiser was named Player of The Year, Nick Evangelista was named Co-Pitcher of the Year and Jim Negrych was named Rookie of the Year. Both Hiser and Negrych garnered All-America honors. The Big East also named Ben Copeland, Tom Cashman and Bryan Spamer to the All-Conference squad.

“What a great year,” Jordano said, “But, believe me it is not a cliché, we were not satisfied. We want to win the Big East Championship. We compete in the premier conference in the north and it is a dog fight each week. We felt we had as good a chance as any to win it last year and we came up short. Quite frankly, I can't wait to get after it again this year,” Jordano said.

Over the course of Jordano's career, 23 players have played professional baseball, in addition to eight All-Americans and countless All-Conference and All Region selections. Jordano's overall record of 481-277-2 (.634) ranks him among the top 35 active Division-I coaches.

In 2003, Pittsburgh fell just short of making the conference tournament but was well represented on the Big East's All-Conference teams. The Panthers finished with a 36-18 mark. Three players, including Bryan Spamer, Stuart Rykaceski and Mike Scanzano, each earned all-league status, marking the second straight year the Panthers have inked at least three players on the list.

The 2002 season was one to remember as well. Although falling .17 percentage points short of a Big East Tournament bid and possibly an NCAA at-large selection, the Panthers went down to the final out of the season before settling for an impressive 36-16 record.

“The 2002 season was the culmination of a five-year plan to bring respectability and solid foundation to our program. We have done that and we look forward to continuing the success year in and year out. We have a great University, a tremendous Chancellor and a very sup-



BACKGROUND ON JORDANO

Full Name: Joseph John Jordano

Birthdate: May 28, 1963

Wife: Michell

Children: Matthew (6) and Joseph (5)

Hometown: Erie, Pa.

Education: Westminster College, 1985, B.A. speech/communication; Slippery Rock, 1994, M.Ed. in athletic administration

Coaching Experience:

Pittsburgh (Seventh year)
Head Coach — 1998-Present

Mercyhurst (11 years)
Head Coach — 1987-98

Honors/Notes:

- Big East Coach of the Year (2004)
- Louisville Slugger Independent Coach of the Year (1995)
- GLIAC Coach of the Year (1996, 1997)
- Louisville Slugger (GLIAC) Coach of the Year (1996, 1997)
- Entered the 2005 season ranked 32nd among NCAA Division I winningest active coaches with a .634 winning percentage.
- Has coached eight All-Americans, 31 all-region and 38 all-conference players.
- Has sent 23 players on to professional baseball.
- Second among all Pittsburgh coaches in career wins, totaling 198 entering the 2005 season.
- Has coached at least three players in each of the last three seasons to All-Big East status, including the 2004 Player of the Year, Co-Pitcher of the Year and Rookie of the Year.
- Over the past three seasons, has had eight players sign professional contracts.
- Under his tutelage, players have broken 11 single-season and career batting records.

HEAD COACH JOE JORDANO

portive athletic administration and one of the most exciting overall athletic programs. We will continue to capitalize on this momentum.”

It wasn't an easy project from the onset. The date of his hiring alone made it a difficult start. Coupling with the late start and the fact that the Panthers made a rapid fall from its last Big East title in 1995, Jordano had a huge undertaking before him.

It all began on November 15, 1997—the day Jordano became a Panther. With little time to prepare the Panthers limped through a 12-27 campaign. Jordano and his staff hit the recruiting trails hard.

“I knew it was a program that had a long history and some great players. We wanted to establish a foundation that would be in place for long time and a team that could have success over a long period.

“That first year was tough, but we worked hard to lay the foundation for what we expected and what the future would hold for our team members,” said Jordano. “That same foundation is in place today.”

With his 17 new signees in place for the 1999 season, the Panthers made a dramatic improvement finishing with a 27-27 record. After two recruiting seasons, the Panthers were poised for a run at the Big East playoffs. With dramatic style, in the bottom of the ninth inning on the final day of the regular season, the Panthers needed a win to get to the Big East Tournament. Trailing 5-2, the Panthers scored three to tie Boston Col-

lege and then went on to win in extra innings, earning their first trip to the playoffs in five seasons. Pittsburgh also finished the year with 31-24 mark, the most successful year since 1995.

In three short seasons and only two years behind the baseball desk, Jordano had the Panthers in position for continued success.

“I felt very good about the progress we made in our second (1999) and third (2000) seasons. Not many teams can say they went from 12 wins to 31 wins in that short of time while competing in one of the toughest conferences in the country. I was proud of our guys and how they played the game the right way. We played hard.”

In 2000, Jordano notched his 350th career win. Also, the team re-wrote the baseball record books with several individual and team marks established over the first three campaigns. The turn-around in the first three years was one of the most impressive in Division I Baseball.

The 2001 season was one Jordano would like to forget, not because of wins and losses, but because of the rash of injuries that plagued the Panthers. Pittsburgh lost two of their top three pitchers and several positions players at various times throughout the season. These injuries left the Panthers thin on the mound and in the field.

“The season was an aberration. Nothing about it was normal. It was one that made us a tougher team. We knew coming into the season that we were going to be young, but with the injuries we sustained, we got even younger that much quicker, obviously not by design. We started anywhere from four to seven freshmen and sophomores at any given time. We knew that this would eventually make us a better team. Quite frankly, I believe we did as good a coaching job as any that year. We were hit with some extraordinary circumstances but we kept our focus and gained some valuable experience.”

COACHING FILE...

Year-by-Year Career Record

Year	Record	Pct.	School	Rank
1988	19-17	.528	Mercyhurst	—
1989	23-10	.696	Mercyhurst	—
1990	28-13	.682	Mercyhurst	—
1991	28-15	.651	Mercyhurst	Top 25
1992	18-18	.500	Mercyhurst	—
1993	29-14	.674	Mercyhurst	—
1994	30-8	.789	Mercyhurst	Top 20
1995	31-7	.816	Mercyhurst	Top 15
1996	37-8	.822	Mercyhurst	Top 10
1997	40-8	.833	Mercyhurst	Top 10
1998	12-27-1	.300	Pittsburgh	—
1999	27-27	.500	Pittsburgh	—
2000	31-24	.564	Pittsburgh	—
2001	18-27	.327	Pittsburgh	—
2002	36-16-1	.689	Pittsburgh	Top 35*
2003	36-20	.643	Pittsburgh	—
2004	38-18	.679	Pittsburgh	Top 35*

* ranked during season

Mercyhurst	283-118	.706
Pittsburgh	198-159-2	.554

TOTAL 481-277-2 .634

Team Honors

Year	Honor	Place
1989	ECAC Tournament	Dowling, L.I.
1991	NCAA Tournament	Shippensburg, Pa.
1994	NCAA Tournament	Edinboro, Pa.
1995	NCAA Tournament	Erie, Pa.
1996	GLIAC Champions	
	NCAA Tournament	St. Joseph's, Ind.
1997	GLIAC Champions	
	NCAA Tournament	Edwardsville, Ind.
2000	Big East Tournament	Bridgewater, N.J.
2004	Big East Tournament	Bridgewater, N.J.

WINNINGEST ACTIVE DIVISION I COACHES

(min. five years as a Division I head coach; includes record at four-year colleges only.)

Coach, Team	Pct.
1. Gene Stephenson, Wichita State .....	.757
2. Mike Martin, Florida State .....	.747
3. Mike Fox, North Carolina .....	.745
4. Wayne Graham, Rice .....	.710
5. Jim Morris, Miami (Fla.) .....	.708
6. Ray Tanner, South Carolina .....	.702
7. Steve Owens, LaMoyné .....	.700
8. George Horton, Cal. State Fullerton .....	.698
9. Rick Jones, Tulane .....	.691
10. Jim Wells, Alabama .....	.684
11. Augie Garrido, Texas .....	.679
12. Danny Hall, Georgia Tech .....	.678
13. Dave Han Vorn, Arkansas .....	.678
14. Mark Marquess, Stanford .....	.678
15. Pat Murphy, Arizona State .....	.676
16. Mark Johnson, Texas A&M .....	.675
17. Ron Polk, Mississippi State .....	.672
18. Pat McMahon, Florida .....	.670
19. Bob Todd, Ohio State .....	.655
20. Roger Cador, Southern U. ....	.655
21. Danny Price, Florida International .....	.653
22. Bob Morgan, Indiana .....	.652
23. Gary Gilmore, Coastal Carolina .....	.651
24. Chuck Hartmann, Virginia Tech .....	.649
25. Larry Hays, Texas Tech .....	.649
26. Jay Bergman, UCF .....	.643
27. Rod Delmonico, Tennessee .....	.643
28. Steve Kittrell, South Alabama .....	.643
29. Rodney Hennon, Ga. Southern .....	.642
30. Jack Leggett, Clemson .....	.635
31. Kevin Cooney, Florida Atlantic .....	.635
32. JOE JORDANO, PITTSBURGH .....	.634



Head Coach Joe Jordano captured the 2004 Big East Coach of the Year award at the annual Big East Championship banquet. Additionally, P.J. Hiser (Player of the Year), Nick Evangelista (Co-Pitcher of the Year) and Jam Negrych (Rookie of the Year) were honored at the banquet as Jordano guided the Panthers to a school-record six all-conference selections.

HEAD COACH JOE JORDANO

THE WORD ON JORDANO...

Joe Jordano is a proven winner because he knows what it takes to win. He is very knowledgeable and gets the most out of his players. Coach Jordano has done a lot for my career and if it weren't for him, I would not be in the big leagues today. My transition to this level was very easy, simply because his program operates very similar to the way a professional organization is run. I cannot say enough about him. I would recommend Coach Jordano to anyone.

— David Lee
Cleveland Indians

I have known Joe for a long time and had the opportunity to play with him. He is a tough competitor, and it shows in his teams. As a scout, I am impressed with his teams' play. They are well-disciplined, play the game the right way and are very well coached. He has a strong reputation among major league scouts. He is a winner.

— Ed Santa
Colorado Rockies Area Scouting Supervisor

Joe was recommended by Dave Wallace (Pitching Coach, Boston Red Sox) and me as the head baseball coach for Pittsburgh, and he has gone above and beyond, as far as the job he has done, at Pitt. He is a very dedicated and organized person who has a passion for his job that is next to none in the collegiate world. When he is ready, the professional world of baseball is waiting for coaches, like Joe, who are great teachers of the game as well as tremendous motivators.

— Guy Conti
New York Mets Bullpen Coach

Through teaching and motivating, Coach Jordano has been able to get the most out of his players. He has helped me become the person I am today.

— Matt Irvin
2001 Male Blue-Gold Awardee
Four-year letterwinner

JORDANO ON ACADEMICS...

"Simply stated, we are in the education business. It is at the core of what we do. Each of our players understand coming in that our academic efforts are equally as important as our athletic ones. We have created an environment that is conducive to success in the classroom and will always be committed to achieving the ultimate goal — that every player will receive his degree from the University of Pittsburgh."



Entering his fifth year, Jordano was very optimistic. It would be the first class that consisted of all his players. The Panthers put up some impressive numbers. After starting the season at 10-3-1, the Panthers earned their highest ever national ranking — No. 32 in the NCBWA (National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Poll). During the course of the year, the Panthers broke several individual and team records. Brad Rea became the most-prolific hitter in history; the team set the Big East regular season win mark with 14; and the second most wins in school history with 36, all of which were eclipsed in 2004.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished. However, our work is not nearly finished. My staff, players and I look forward to taking this program to the next level and continuing the building of a great baseball program that will be in place for a long time."

That trend of rebuilding has been a trait of Jordano in his coaching career. His first position was at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. An NCAA Division II school that did not have a strong baseball tradition and inheriting a team that won only nine games the previous season, the success began immediately and did not stop for 10 seasons.

During his 10-year reign, Jordano's numbers speak for themselves: 283 wins against only 118 losses; six post-season appearances; two conference championships in his two years in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference; 30 All-Region players; four All-Americans; and

several players in professional baseball. Upon leaving Mercyhurst, Coach Jordano was the winningest coach in Mercyhurst College history and was ranked sixth all-time active winningest coaches in the DII baseball history. Jordano was also named the GLIAC Coach of the Year twice and was the Louisville Slugger NCAA DII Independent Coach of the year in 1995. In his last four years at Mercyhurst, Jordano's teams finished with a gaudy 128-31 with four consecutive NCAA regional appearances. During his stay, Jordano also served on the NCAA DII National Baseball Committee and served as a chairman of the North Central Baseball Region.

Jordano has been honored by groups over the past several years for his contributions to baseball. In 2003, he was named "Baseball Man of the Year" in Erie, Pa. — his hometown, for "appreciation for his Lifetime support and devotion to baseball on the local and collegiate levels".

Following the 2004 season and the Big East Coach of the Year award, Jordano was recognized by the Team Pittsburgh Group of Erie and was also awarded an Honorary Lifetime membership to the San Francisco Bay Area Pitt Club.

Jordano received his bachelor's degree from Westminster College, where he was a stellar four-year letterwinner and All-District performer in baseball for the Titans. He also obtained his master's degree in Athletic Administration from Slippery Rock University.

Coach Jordano resides in Cranberry Township with his wife, Michell, and sons Matthew (6) and Joseph (5).

JORDANO ON RECRUITING...

"We are very focused in our recruiting. We want individuals who are completely committed to becoming the best player and student possible. We are attracting a great quality player and will continue to secure individuals who are equally committed to achieving excellence both on and off the field, and will accept nothing less. We are confident that if a player chooses the University of Pittsburgh, he will never regret that decision."

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH JOEL DOMBKOWSKI



JOEL DOMBKOWSKI

ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH

Joel Dombkowski is in his eighth season at Pittsburgh and his 13th as part of Head Coach Joe Jordano's staff, dating back to when he assisted Jordano at Mercyhurst. For his hard work and dedication to the Panthers' baseball program, Dombkowski was recently promoted to Associate Head Coach for Pittsburgh. Dombkowski's primary responsibilities includes offensive instruction and working with the outfielders.

"I was very pleased to promote Joel to the position of associate head coach for our baseball team," Jordano said. "It is a well-deserved honor and it is a testament to his outstanding coaching ability and his loyalty to the University of Pittsburgh."

Pittsburgh has been on offensive outburst over the past couple of years thanks in large part to Dombkowski. Last year alone, the Panthers broke or tied eight single-season batting records, highlighted by P.J. Hiser's 21 home runs. Additionally, Dombkowski helped guide Hiser to the Big East Player of the Year award and Jim Negrych to the Big East Rookie of the Year honor.

Last year, the Panthers had a school-record six All-Big East selections and broke the Pitt record for number of Major League Baseball draftees, including Hiser (Cleveland Indians), Nick Evangelista (Philadelphia Phillies) and T.J. Gornati (San Francisco Giants). Also, Bryan Spamer broke the school's all-time hits record, finishing with 250.

As a team, the Panthers were well-represented in the NCAA rankings, too. Pittsburgh finished second in the country in stolen bases (2.66 avg.), 20th in the slugging percentage (.495) and 30th in batting (.315 avg.)

At age 27, he began his career at Pitt as one of the youngest Division-I assistant coaches in the country.

"What I believe in is quality work, physical and mental preparation, and a high level of energy every day," said Dombkowski.

In 2002, the Panthers boasted impressive numbers as they captured the Big East home run, doubles and stolen base titles while finishing second in hits. In addition, Dombkowski has helped seven former Panthers continue their careers in the professional ranks including Joe Lydic from Bethel Park (drafted in the 7th round by the Houston Astros in 2000), Brant Colamarino (hit 19 homeruns tying a then-Panthers all-time single season record while being drafted in the 7th round by the Oakland Athletics in 2002) and Brad Rea (broke the Panthers career hits and home run records while earning third team All-American honors). Rea signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates in the spring of 2003.

"I believe that the caliber of athlete we are getting here at the University of Pittsburgh will put us into a position to win a championship," said Dombkowski.

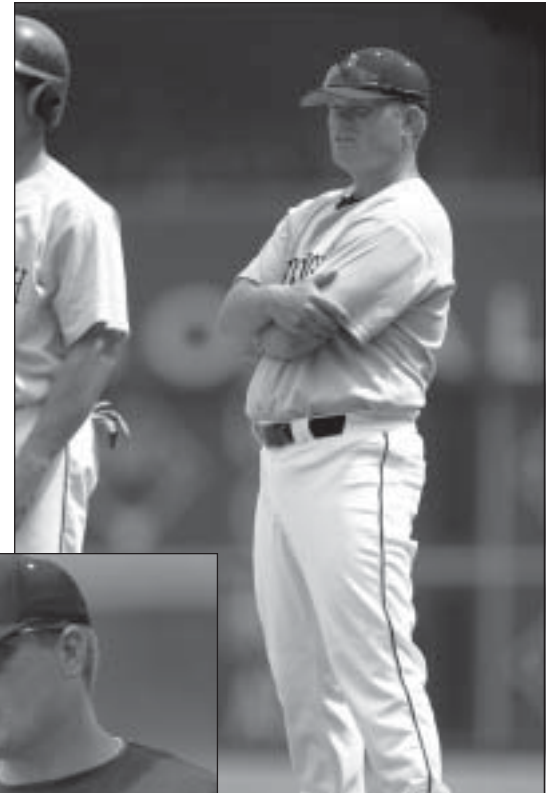
Prior to joining Pittsburgh, Dombkowski served on Jordano's staff at Mercyhurst College from 1992-1997. During his tenure there, Dombkowski helped coach the Lakers to five consecutive NCAA Regional appearances while capturing two straight Great lakes intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles.

Dombkowski also began his own playing career under Jordano's direction at Mercyhurst and was a standout catcher for the Lakers. He earned All-Region honors twice and led the Lakers to two playoff berths in 1989 (ECAC) and 1991 (NCAA). Upon his graduation, Dombkowski made the quick transition to the coaching ranks by joining Jordano on the coaching staff.

"Joel is an integral part of our program," Jordano said. "He has orchestrated our offensive efforts and has great instincts for the game on and off the field."

A 1991 Mercyhurst graduate, Dombkowski earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and his master's in administration of justice, also at Mercyhurst.

Dombkowski, 35, is a native of Erie, Pa., and currently resides in Pittsburgh. Dombkowski and his wife, Leigh Ann Gulla, have one son, Zachary Thomas, born in January, 2004.



ASSISTANT COACHES/SUPPORT STAFF



**DAN
NINEMIRE**
ASSISTANT COACH

Dan Ninemire enters his fourth season as an assistant coach at Pittsburgh. His responsibilities include serving as recruiting coordinator as well as working with the infielders and catchers.

Pittsburgh's recent success has been triggered by Ninemire's recruiting efforts as the Panthers' last three recruiting classes were ranked among the nation's best by *The Collegiate Baseball Newspaper*.

Additionally, under his direction the Panthers boasted one of the top fielding and defensive squads in 2004. Pittsburgh was the top fielding team in the Big East and had the fewest stolen bases against, thanks in part to the stellar play of catchers Alex Rybczak and Mike Zambriczki.

Prior to joining Coach Jordano's staff, Ninemire served as head coach at Onondaga Community College from 1999-2001. While at OCC, Ninemire lead the Lazars to a 16-game turn around in a one year period. He also served as pitching coach for the Newport Gulls of the New England Collegiate League, and helped lead them to a NECBL championship. Adding to his experience, Ninemire served as field manager and general manager for the Watertown Wizards of the New York Collegiate Baseball League.

"One of the reasons we asked Dan to join our staff is because of his head coaching experience and his connections in New York," stated Coach Jordano. "We have done a great job in attracting New York talent, including 2004 Big East Rookie of the Year Jim Negrych."

In the fall of 1996, Ninemire took on his first coaching job as an assistant at Mercyhurst College under now Pittsburgh head coach Joe Jordano. Prior to coaching, Ninemire played professional baseball for the Newark Barge Bandits in the North Atlantic League. He also served as an associate scout for the Cleveland Indians from 2000 to 2001.

Ninemire's college baseball days began in 1993 at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, NY. In his first season he helped lead his team to the Junior College World Series. He later was named to the NYS Junior College All-Star Team. After his tenure at MVCC, Ninemire transferred and finished his college career at Gannon University in Erie, PA. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1997 in therapeutic recreation, and later received his master's from Syracuse in special education in 1998.

"In addition to being a quality instructor, I feel confident that Dan has added not only expertise but experience to our coaching staff," said Jordano.

Ninemire is single and resides in Pittsburgh.



KIRK BRUCE
ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/
OLYMPIC SPORTS

Kirk Bruce is in his seventh year as assistant athletic director for Olympic sports, but his association with the university dates back much further. In his current capacity, Bruce oversees the day-to-day operations of Pittsburgh's Olympic sports.

Bruce previously served as the Panthers' head women's basketball coach for 13 years from 1985-1998. His coaching career was highlighted by the 1992-93 season in which the Panthers produced their first 20-win season (21-10) and finished third in the Women's National Invitation Tournament. Bruce coached numerous Big East All-Conference players and two Kodak All-American honorable mention players in Jonna Huemrich and Lorri Johnson, during his tenure.

A standout point guard at Pittsburgh from 1971-75, Bruce was a member of the Panthers' 1974 team that finished 25-4 and advanced to the NCAA East Regional finals. He was drafted by the Utah Stars of the former American Basketball Association (ABA). When the league disbanded, he returned to Pittsburgh to begin his coaching career as an assistant for the Panthers. Bruce was later promoted to the head women's coaching position prior to the 1985-86 season.

Bruce and his wife Marleen have three daughters, Chelsea (22), Carmen (19) and Courtney (17).

BASEBALL SUPPORT STAFF



Tim Beltz
Strength Coach



Burt Lauten
Media Relations



Randy Quierra
Student Manager

Not Pictured:
Katie Ward
Media Relations