

# 2007 Preview



# 2007 Preview

## THE OFFENSE

### QUARTERBACKS

**WHO'S BACK:** Pitt returns three scholarship quarterbacks, but only one with game experience. Junior **Bill Stull** was the Panthers' backup to the graduated Tyler Palko each of the previous two seasons. Stull has thrown just 10 career passes (completing seven). He played in four games last season and completed 6 of 8 for 69 yards and a touchdown.

**Kevan Smith** enters his first active collegiate season after redshirting as a true freshman last year. Smith impressed the coaching staff on the scout squad and earned Pitt's Offensive Prep Player of the Year award. Redshirt freshman **Dexter Davidson** will look to work his way into the quarterback mix after sitting out all of 2006 recovering from knee surgery. Redshirt freshman **Steve Malinchak** enters his second season as a walk-on QB at Pitt.

**WHO'S NEW:** Pitt will gain the services of one of the nation's most sought-after quarterback prospects in **Pat Bostick**. The 2006 Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year, Bostick finished fifth in state history with 7,259 passing yards at Manheim Township High.

**NOTABLE:** Tyler Palko took every significant snap for Pitt during the last three seasons. He made 35 consecutive starts for the Panthers and finished among the school's all-time leaders in total offense (second, 8,429 yards), passing touchdowns (tied for second, 66) and passing yards (third, 8,343). In addition to his production, Palko's departure also leaves a leadership void. He was voted a team captain each of his final three years.

**QUOTABLE:** "We may not be working from the foundation of experience that Tyler Palko had, but both Bill Stull and Kevan Smith have a lot of ability and are very smart," offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Matt Cavanaugh said. "The arrival of Pat Bostick will make for an even more competitive situation. We have some talented quarterbacks who will continue to get better and better as their experience level increases."

### RUNNING BACKS

**WHO'S BACK:** All of the major cast members return at running back, including Pitt's leading ground-gainer a year ago in **LaRod Stephens-Howling**. As Pitt's starting tailback last year, Stephens-Howling rushed for 893 yards and nine touchdowns while averaging five yards per carry. A small and shifty back, the junior has proven capable of making the big play, evidenced by his 70-yard touchdown at Syracuse last season. Stephens-Howling was also frequently utilized as a receiver out of the backfield and averaged 105 all-purpose yards per game, the fourth best in the Big East. Also pushing for carries at tailback will be sophomore **Kevin Collier**, who totaled 115 yards and two TDs on 33 carries as a true freshman.

Junior **Conredge Collins** returns as Pitt's starting fullback. More than a blocking back, Collins can be an asset in the running or passing game. Last season he

rushed for 115 yards and a touchdown on 29 carries (4.0 avg.), while also adding 20 receptions for 198 yards and three TDs. Sophomore **Shane Brooks** has moved to fullback after being Stephens-Howling's backup in 2006. Brooks' physical, straight-ahead running style is well suited for the position and helped him rush for 218 yards on 50 attempts (4.4 avg.) last season. A pair of walk-ons, sophomore **Chris Bova** and redshirt freshman **Adam Atiyeh**, will provide depth at fullback.

**WHO'S NEW:** Pitt welcomes one of its deepest and most talented running back classes in recent memory. The Panthers will add three freshman tailbacks, including **LeSean McCoy**, **Shariff Harris** and **Greg Williams**. McCoy joins Pitt via Milford Academy (N.Y.), where he was one of the top prep school prospects in the country. Prior to Milford, McCoy was a high school All-American at Bishop McDevitt in Harrisburg, rushing for more than 2,500 yards his final two seasons.

Additionally, fullback **Henry Hynoski** joins Pitt after rushing for 7,165 career yards, the sixth highest total in Pennsylvania history, at perennial state power Southern Columbia.

**NOTABLE:** Noted recruiting site Rivals.com rated Pitt's 2007 running back class No. 8 nationally.

**QUOTABLE:** "With LaRod and Conredge starting last year we have tested experience coming back and that is a good foundation for your backfield," running backs coach David Walker said. "Looking at our group of backs as a whole, I think we have ability throughout. Some of that ability is untapped so we need to continue to strive for improvement and that will result in on-the-field production."

### WIDE RECEIVERS

**WHO'S BACK:** Pitt's new starting quarterback will have the luxury of throwing to two of the Big East's most productive wideouts in senior **Derek Kinder**, a 2006 Biletnikoff Award semifinalist, and sophomore **Oderick Turner**.

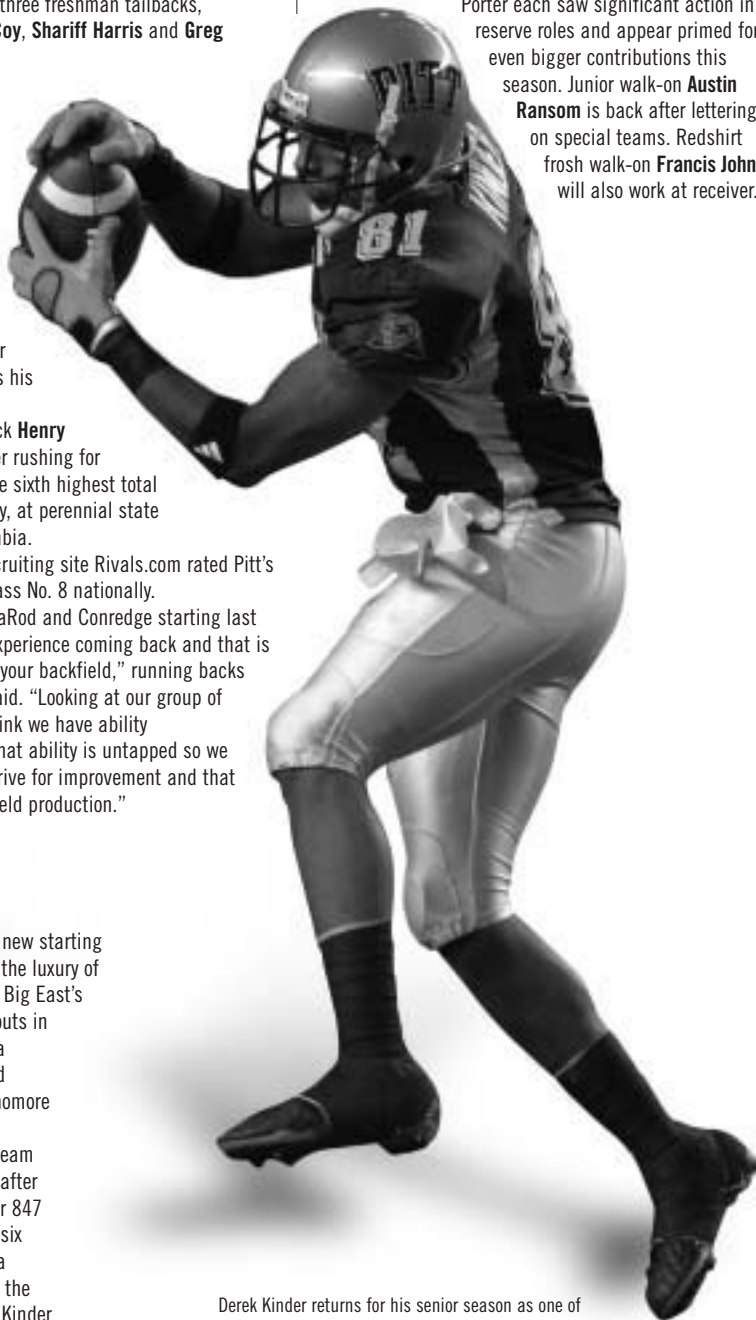
Kinder was a first-team All-Big East selection after catching 57 passes for 847 yards (14.9 avg.) and six touchdowns. Labeled a possession receiver at the beginning of the year, Kinder proved he could stretch

the field with catches like his 80-yard touchdown at Cincinnati and 78-yard score against Virginia.

Turner led the Big East (tied) with eight touchdown catches in his first active collegiate season and received Freshman All-America honors from Rivals. He totaled 44 receptions for 660 yards (15.0 avg.) overall.

The Panthers boast solid depth at receiver with the return of junior **Marcel Pestano** and sophomores **Cedric McGee** and **T.J. Porter**. Pestano is a speedster who was the team's third-leading receiver last year with 28 catches for 424 yards (15.1 avg.) and two scores. McGee and

Porter each saw significant action in reserve roles and appear primed for even bigger contributions this season. Junior walk-on **Austin Ransom** is back after lettering on special teams. Redshirt frosh walk-on **Francis Johns** will also work at receiver.



Derek Kinder returns for his senior season as one of the Big East's top receivers.

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Offensive tackle Mike McGlynn enters his fourth year as a starter.

**WHO'S NEW:** Pitt signed three wide receivers in 2007, including **Kyle Hubbard**, **Maurice Williams** and **Aundre Wright**. Williams was a *SuperPrep* All-American out of Erie (Pa.) Strong Vincent, playing such diverse roles as quarterback, defensive back and receiver. Wright is a highly regarded prep school prospect from Milford Academy (N.Y.). He previously was an All-City performer at Pittsburgh's Perry Traditional Academy. At 6-foot-4, Hubbard was one of Ohio's biggest receiver prospects last year. He compiled nearly 100 receptions for more than 1,400 yards his final two seasons at Cleveland's St. Edward High.

**NOTABLE:** Pitt has produced a first-team All-Big East wide receiver in eight of the last nine years, including Derek Kinder in 2006. Two of those players were named the winner of the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top wideout, including Larry Fitzgerald (2003) and Antonio Bryant (2000). Pitt is the only school to produce two winners of the Biletnikoff.

**QUOTABLE:** "In contrast to last season when we were very young and untested, this year we have a receiver group with a lot of depth and experience," receivers coach Aubrey Hill said. "We have kids who have made a lot of big plays and have helped this offense be productive. We want to see that same type of production — and more — this year and I believe we are capable of that."

### TIGHT ENDS

**WHO'S BACK:** Tight end might be Pitt's deepest position despite the loss of 2006 starter Steve Buches to graduation. Three talented and experienced players figure to play prominent roles for Pitt's offense this year, including sophomores **Nate Byham** and **John Pelusi** and senior **Darrell Strong**.

Strong was Pitt's No. 2 tight end for most of last year and had 15 receptions for 171 yards (11.4 avg.) and three touchdowns. Byham joined Pitt as a highly regarded recruit and played in 11 games as a true freshman, catching two passes for 34 yards and a TD.

Pelusi lettered as a true frosh in 2005 but an offseason knee injury pushed him to the sidelines for all of the 2006 campaign. He came back with an impressive spring and is ready to vie for the starting nod. Additional depth at tight end will come from sophomore walk-on **Dustin Walters**.

**WHO'S NEW:** Heading into 2007 training camp, none of Pitt's newcomers are projected as tight ends.

**NOTABLE:** Pitt's primary tight ends — Buches, Strong and Byham — accounted for 43 catches for 507 yards and eight touchdowns last year.

**QUOTABLE:** "We have a nice luxury at tight end with three veteran players who all have significant game experience," tight ends coach Brian Angelichio said. "All three are going to compete for significant playing time and each player brings their own strengths and talents that can help us win football games."

### OFFENSIVE LINE

**WHO'S BACK:** The Panthers boast an offensive line that has the potential to be one of its strongest editions in recent seasons.

Four starters are back, including senior left tackle **Jeff Otah**, junior left guard **C.J. Davis**, sophomore right guard **Joe Thomas** and senior right tackle **Mike McGlynn**. McGlynn enters his fourth year as a starter, while Davis enters his third. The physically imposing Otah (6-6, 340) joined Pitt as a junior-college transfer last year and went on to start all 12 games, while Thomas stepped into a starting role in early October and earned praise as one of the country's top newcomers.

The lone vacancy on the offensive front is at center. Senior **Chris Vangas**, a three-year letterman, and sophomore **John Bachman** will be the leading candidates to fill the void. Redshirt freshman **Scott Corson** will compete at center as well.

Providing depth and competition at tackle will be sophomore **Jason Pinkston** and junior **Chase Clowser**. Pinkston joined Pitt as a highly touted defensive line prospect last year but switched to offense in midseason and displayed intriguing potential. Clowser lettered each of the last two seasons. Junior **Frank Kochin** is also in the tackle mix.

Pushing for time at guard will be junior **Dominic Williams**, a chief reserve each of the last two years, and sophomore **John Brown**. Additional depth will come from senior **Kevin Cimador** and redshirt frosh **Alex Karabin**.

**WHO'S NEW:** Five freshmen offensive linemen will join Pitt in the fall, each hailing from the state of Pennsylvania. **Chris Jacobson** was one of the most coveted offensive line prospects in the state and nationally. A product of nearby Keystone Oaks High, Jacobson was named to numerous All-America squads. **John Fieger** (Upper Perkiomen), **Greg Gaskins** (William Penn) and **Dan Matha** (Erie McDowell) were all first-team all-state performers. **Jordan Gibbs** (Penn Manor) was a two-time all-star selection in the highly regarded Lancaster-Lebanon League.

**NOTABLE:** Mike McGlynn has made 31 consecutive starts at right tackle, the most starting assignments of any member of this year's team.

**QUOTABLE:** "We had some veteran players during the spring miss time due to injuries," offensive line coach Paul Dunn said. "If there is a silver lining, it's that younger players had to step up and take more practice repetitions. You hope that benefits our line in terms of developing quality depth. We have good experience returning with four starters. We need to build depth behind those starters and strive for consistency each and every game."

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Cornerback Kennard Cox will help lead Pitt's secondary.

## THE DEFENSE

### DEFENSIVE LINE

**WHO'S BACK:** Senior end **Joe Clermond** was Pitt's most productive defensive lineman last year, leading the Big East with 16.5 tackles for losses. Clermond earned second-team all-conference and could be poised for a national-caliber year in 2007. Clermond will man the left defensive end spot. Depth will come from redshirt freshman **Tyler Tkach** and true frosh **Justin Hargrove**.

Competition for the starting assignment at right end will revolve around senior **Chris McKillop** and sophomore **Doug Fulmer**. Both players had promising seasons cut short due to injuries last year. Fulmer impressed as a starter in September before suffering an ankle fracture in the year's fourth game. McKillop stepped up in his place to start six games until a knee injury ended his year. McKillop made a successful return for spring drills. Fulmer, though, suffered another setback with a knee injury and may not be ready for action until September. In his absence,

redshirt freshman **Greg Romeus** could emerge in a prominent reserve role at right end.

Both starters are back on the interior front, including junior nose tackle **Rashaad Duncan** and junior defensive tackle **Gus Mustakas**. At the nose, Duncan will be pushed by sophomore **Ernest "Mick" Williams**, a promising prospect who was hindered during the 2006 season by a shoulder injury. Competition at tackle will come from sophomore letterman **John Malecki**, sophomore **Craig Bokor** (an offensive guard last season) and redshirt freshman **Jared Martin**, who could also see time at the nose.

**WHO'S NEW:** Pitt will receive an influx of four newcomers to the defensive front. Junior-college transfer **Tommie Duhart** could make immediate contributions at tackle. A Florida native, Duhart was one of the nation's top JUCO performers at Coffeyville (Ks.) Community College last season. The Panthers also added three freshmen defensive ends, including prep All-American **Tony Tucker**, who was one of the most heavily recruited prospects in the Washington D.C. area, **Myles Caragein**, an all-state pick at nearby Keystone Oaks High, and **Jabaal Sheard**, a speedy prospect out of Hollywood Hills, Fla.

**NOTABLE:** Pitt's front four accounted for 17 of the team's 21 sacks in 2006. Ends **Joe Clermond** and **Chris McKillop** shared the team lead with 5.5 sacks each.

**QUOTABLE:** "We are on our way to becoming a veteran defensive front," defensive line coach **Greg Gattuso** said. "As our players have gained experience and knowledge, their mentality as a group has become more aggressive. We are getting up the field and that showed during the spring. Our age, technique and attitude have made good advancements and we're looking forward to that being on display this fall."

### LINEBACKERS

**WHO'S BACK:** The linebacker corps will need significant retooling with the loss of three starters, including All-American **H.B. Blades** in the middle and strongside linebacker **Clint Session**.

Junior **Scott McKillop** lettered as Blades' backup each of the last two years and is poised to take over the starting role. Also vying for time will be sophomore letterman **Steve Dell** and a pair of redshirt freshmen, **Dan Loheyde** and **Greg Webster**. Redshirt frosh walk-on **Miguel Peña** also will work at the Mike.

Eyeing the starting Sam linebacker assignment will be junior **Adam Gunn**, who distinguished himself on special teams the last two years. He will be pushed by **Nate Nix**, who redshirted as a true freshman in 2006.

The competition at Will linebacker will revolve around senior **Jemeel Brady** and sophomores **Shane Murray** and **Dorin Dickerson**. Brady and Murray are converted safeties, while the athletic Dickerson moved to linebacker after lettering as a receiver last season. Sophomore walk-on **Brian Kaiser** will provide depth.

**WHO'S NEW:** Freshman **Brandon Lindsey** was one of the nation's top linebacker prospects following a decorated career at Aliquippa High, a traditional Western Pennsylvania pipeline for the Panthers. Lindsey will be joined by fellow frosh **Max Gruder**, an all-state performer at North Carolina's Charlotte Country Day School, and **Tristan Roberts**, a two-way standout who excelled on the eastern side of the Keystone State at Pennridge High.

**NOTABLE:** Defensive coordinator **Paul Rhoads**, who coached Pitt's secondary the last seven seasons, will now oversee the linebackers.

**QUOTABLE:** "Obviously we have a very inexperienced group of linebackers," defensive coordinator and linebackers coach **Paul Rhoads** said. "While youthful, the group is very serious and intent on learning their positions and performing efficiently. What they lack in playing time I would say they make up for it with work ethic and desire."

### DEFENSIVE BACKS

**WHO'S BACK:** At boundary cornerback, senior **Kennard Cox** returns after starting every game a year ago. Cox tied for the team lead with seven pass breakups. He will be pushed by sophomore **Jovani Chappel**, who saw spot duty as a true frosh, and senior **Lowell Robinson**, a standout kick returner.

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Kick returner Lowell Robinson averaged nearly 28 yards per kick return to top the Big East and rank ninth nationally.

The starting field corner position is vacant with the departure of All-Big East performer Darrelle Revis, who left for the NFL after his junior season. An early favorite to step up and seize Revis' vacant spot is sophomore **Aaron Berry**, who lettered as a reserve in 2006. Berry will contend with freshman **Aaron Smith** and redshirt freshman **Ricky Gary**.

Junior **Eric Thatcher** impressed as the starting free safety in last year's opening five games until an ankle fracture ended his season. He returns for 2007 ready to resume his prominent role in the secondary. Providing backup duty to Thatcher will be sophomore **Irvan Brown**.

Senior **Mike Phillips** has played every position in the secondary during his career and moved into the starting free safety role last season after Thatcher's injury. Phillips will look to take over as the starting strong safety this year, a position he held in 2005 before a season-ending ankle injury in the year's third game. Sophomore **Elijah Fields** cut his teeth on special teams a year ago and could be a factor at the strong spot this season. A pair of walk-ons, sophomore special teams letterman **Mike Toerper** and junior **Shawn Besong**, are also in the mix.

**WHO'S NEW:** Three freshman defensive backs join Pitt's secondary in 2007, including a homegrown product and two

Florida imports. **Dom DeCicco** was an all-state performer at nearby Thomas Jefferson High. Sunshine state native **Sherod Murdock** was an All-Florida honoree, while fellow Floridian **Buddy Jackson** was discovered at Pitt's summer football camp after clocking a 4.31 40-yard dash.

**NOTABLE:** Darrelle Revis was a first-round selection of the New York Jets in April's NFL Draft. Revis is the sixth Pitt defensive back in the last eight years to get drafted.

**QUOTABLE:** "We have an exceptionally competitive group in the secondary and they seem to thrive on working hard," defensive backs coach Chris Ball said. "I think Darrelle Revis had a big effect on them. They want to maintain the high level of play and competitiveness that Darrelle always played with. We have a lot of work to do but I'm excited about the progress we have made in the secondary."

### THE SPECIALISTS

**WHO'S BACK:** Junior **Conor Lee** is coming off a strong 2006 season, his first as Pitt's starting placekicker. Lee led the Panthers in scoring with 83 points, connecting on an impressive 85.7% of his field goals (12 of 14) and each of his 47 extra-point attempts. He could emerge as an All-Big East candidate this year. Competing to be Lee's backup will be three walk-on specialists: junior **Cody Sawhill**, sophomore **Lucas Stone** and redshirt frosh **Dan Hutchins**.

With the graduation of All-Big East performer Adam Graessle, the Panthers will need to find a new punter and the leading candidate is junior **Dave Brytus**, a transfer from Purdue who sat out last season under NCAA guidelines. Brytus averaged nearly 40 yards per punt for the Boilermakers from 2004-05. Stone will also get a look at punter. In his lone appearance last year, he punted three times for 104 yards (34.7 avg.) at South Florida.

Junior **Mark Estermyer** helps solidify the kicking game as Pitt's long snapper for punts, a role he has held each of the last two years. Senior **Mike McGlynn**, the Panthers' starting right tackle, has handled snaps for field goals the last three seasons.

Pitt's kick return game ranked tops in the Big East and ninth in the country last season, averaging more than 24 yards per return. Senior **Lowell Robinson** was the unit's sparkplug, averaging a Big East-best 27.9 yards per return, which ranked ninth nationally. He will be teamed again with sophomore **T.J. Porter** (22.2 avg.). Both players could also see time returning punts along with sophomore **Aaron Berry**.

**WHO'S NEW:** Pitt did not have any specialists in its 2007 scholarship recruiting class. Punter Dave Brytus, however, figures to make his first collegiate appearance since playing for Purdue in the 2005 Sun Bowl, when he earned the bowl's Most Valuable Special Teams honor.

**NOTABLE:** Conor Lee's 83 points marked the third highest single-season point total by a Pitt player in the last 25 years. Only receiver Larry Fitzgerald (132 in 2003) and kicker Josh Cummings (89 in 2004) compiled higher season totals during that span.

**QUOTABLE:** "We have a real strength returning in Conor Lee, especially considering his performance as a first-year starting placekicker last year," special teams coordinator Charlie Partridge said. "Another asset that can't be underestimated is Mark Estermyer. He is in his third year as our long snapper and that's a real comfort for our kicking game. We had a nationally ranked return game last season and we believe we have the right personnel to ensure that area remains a strength."



Placekicker Conor Lee paced Pitt in scoring last year with 83 points, the third highest single-season scoring total by a Panther in the last 25 years.

# Preseason Depth Chart

THE FOLLOWING IS PITT'S DEPTH CHART HEADING INTO 2007 FALL TRAINING CAMP. NAMES IN BOLD CAPS DENOTE RETURNING STARTERS. MEMBERS OF THE PANTHERS' INCOMING RECRUITING CLASS ARE NOT INCLUDED. AN ASTERISK AFTER PLAYERS' CLASS DENOTES REDSHIRT SEASON.

## OFFENSE

### SPLIT END

- 88 **ODERICK TURNER\*** (6-3, 200, SO\*)
- 87 Marcel Pestano\*\* (6-1, 195, JR\*) or
- 9 T.J. Porter\* (6-1, 185, SO)
- 82 Austin Ransom\* (5-11, 210, JR\*)
- 86 Francis Johns (6-1, 210, FR\*)

### LEFT TACKLE

- 76 **JEFF OTAH\*** (6-6, 340, SR)
- 72 Chase Clowser\*\* (6-7, 330, JR\*)

### LEFT GUARD

- 55 **C.J. DAVIS\*\*** (6-3, 315, JR)
- 78 John Brown (6-4, 285, SO\*)
- 67 Alex Karabin (6-1, 290, FR\*)

### CENTER

- 64 Chris Vangas\*\*\* (6-2, 310, SR\*)
- 62 John Bachman\* (6-4, 280, SO\*)
- 66 Scott Corson (6-5, 290, FR\*)

### RIGHT GUARD

- 56 **JOE THOMAS\*** (6-5, 300, SO)
- 70 Dominic Williams\*\* (6-4, 305, JR\*)
- 61 Kevin Cimador (6-5, 320, SR\*)

### RIGHT TACKLE

- 75 **MIKE McGLYNN\*\*\*** (6-5, 315, SR\*)
- 77 Jason Pinkston\* (6-4, 300, SO)
- 69 Frank Kochin\* (6-4, 280, JR\*)

### TIGHT END

- 80 Nate Byham\* (6-3, 245, SO) or
- 83 John Pelusi\* (6-3, 255, SO\*)
- 14 Darrell Strong\*\*\* (6-5, 265, SR)
- 45 Dustin Walters (6-2, 240, SO\*)

### QUARTERBACK

- 11 Bill Stull\* (6-3, 200, JR)
- 12 Kevan Smith (6-3, 225, FR\*)
- 16 Dexter Davidson (6-4, 220, FR\*)
- 7 Steve Malinchak (6-0, 185, FR\*)

### TAILBACK

- 34 **LaROD STEPHENS-HOWLING\*\*** (5-7, 180, JR)
- 22 Kevin Collier\* (5-11, 195, SO)

### FULLBACK

- 30 **CONREDGE COLLINS\*\*** (6-0, 230, JR)
- 32 Shane Brooks\* (5-11, 225, SO\*)
- 6 Chris Bova (5-11, 230, SO\*)
- 44 Adam Atiyeh (6-0, 240, FR\*)

### FLANKER

- 81 **DEREK KINDER\*\*\*** (6-1, 210, SR)
- 1 Cedric McGee\* (6-1, 200, SO\*)

## DEFENSE

### LEFT END

- 58 **JOE CLERMOND\*\*\*** (6-3, 250, SR\*)
- 45 Tyler Tkach (6-3, 265, FR\*) or
- 96 Justin Hargrove (6-3, 245, FR)

### DEFENSIVE TACKLE

- 93 **GUS MUSTAKAS\*\*** (6-3, 280, JR)
- 74 John Malecki\* (6-3, 275, SO)
- 57 Craig Bokor\* (6-3, 300, SO\*)

### NOSE TACKLE

- 50 **RASHAAD DUNCAN\*\*** (6-2, 295, JR)
- 95 Ernest "Mick" Williams (6-1, 290, SO\*)
- 69 Jared Martin (6-2, 270, FR\*)

### RIGHT END

- 41 **CHRIS McKILLOP\*\*\*** (6-3, 265, SR\*)
- 91 Greg Romeus (6-5, 250, FR\*)
- 48 Doug Fulmer\* (6-4, 245, SO\*)

### SAM LINEBACKER

- 8 Adam Gunn\*\* (6-2, 230, JR\*)
- 44 Nate Nix (6-3, 225, FR\*)

### MIDDLE LINEBACKER

- 40 Scott McKillop\*\* (6-2, 240, JR\*)
- 52 Dan Loheyde (6-0, 225, FR\*)
- 6 Steve Dell\* (6-1, 225, SO\*)
- 6 Greg Webster (6-1, 225, FR\*)
- 31 Miguel Peña (5-10, 210, FR\*)

### WILL LINEBACKER

- 15 Shane Murray\* (6-1, 210, SO\*)
- 2 Dorin Dickerson\* (6-2, 220, SO)
- 24 Jemeel Brady\*\*\* (6-0, 210, SR\*)
- 12 Brian Kaiser (6-0, 215, SO\*)

### BOUNDARY CORNERBACK

- 5 **KENNARD COX\*\*\*** (6-1, 195, SR\*)
- 7 Jovani Chappel\* (5-9, 185, SO)
- 23 Lowell Robinson\* (6-0, 200, SR)

### FREE SAFETY

- 28 **ERIC THATCHER\*\*** (5-9, 195, JR\*)
- 20 Irvan Brown\* (6-0, 205, SO\*)

### STRONG SAFETY

- 10 **MIKE PHILLIPS\*\*** (5-11, 200, SR\*)
- 4 Elijah Fields\* (6-2, 215, SO)
- 39 Michael Toerper\* (6-1, 185, SO\*)
- 11 Shawn Besong (5-11, 200, JR\*)

### FIELD CORNERBACK

- 17 Aaron Berry\* (5-11, 175, SO)
- 3 Aaron Smith (6-0, 180, FR)
- 26 Ricky Gary (5-9, 175, FR\*)

## SPECIALISTS

### PLACEKICKER

- 37 **CONOR LEE\*** (5-11, 195, JR\*)
- 31 Dan Hutchins (5-11, 190, FR\*)
- 86 Lucas Stone (6-1, 190, SO\*)
- 27 Cody Sawhill (6-0, 195, JR)

### PUNTER

- 18 Dave Brytus (6-4, 230, JR\*)
- 86 Lucas Stone (6-1, 190, SO\*)

### HOLDER

- 86 Lucas Stone (6-1, 190, SO\*)
- 18 Dave Brytus (6-4, 230, JR\*)

### LONG SNAPPER

#### PUNT:

- 59 **MARK ESTERMYER\*\*** (6-2, 245, JR\*)
- 75 Mike McGlynn\*\*\* (6-5, 315, SR\*)

### FIELD GOALS/PATS:

- 75 **MIKE McGLYNN\*\*\*** (6-5, 315, SR\*)
- 59 Mark Estermyer\*\* (6-2, 245, JR\*)

### PUNT RETURNER

- 17 Aaron Berry\* (5-11, 175, SO) or
- 9 T.J. Porter\* (6-1, 185, SO) or
- 23 Lowell Robinson\* (6-0, 200, SR)

### KICKOFF RETURNER

- 9 **T.J. PORTER\*** (6-1, 185, SO) and
- 23 **LOWELL ROBINSON\*** (6-0, 200, SR)
- 34 LaRod Stephens-Howling\*\* (5-7, 180, JR) and
- 22 Kevin Collier\* (5-11, 195, SO)

# Personnel

# PITT

## 2007 Preview

### RETURNING Personnel

#### OFFENSE (26)

**Wide Receiver (7):** DEREK KINDER\*\*\*, ODERICK TURNER\*, Marcel Pestano\*\*, Dorin Dickerson\*, Cedric McGee\*, T.J. Porter\*, Austin Ransom\*

**Tackle (6):** MIKE MCGLYNN\*\*\*, JEFF OTAH\*, Chase Clowser\*\*, John Bachman\*, Frank Kochin\*, Jason Pinkston\*

**Guard (4):** C.J. DAVIS\*\*, JOE THOMAS\*, Craig Bokor\*, Dominic Williams\*\*

**Center (1):** Chris Vangas\*\*\*

**Tight End (3):** Darrell Strong\*\*\*, Nate Byham\*, John Pelusi\*

**Quarterback (1):** Bill Stull\*

**Tailback (3):** LaROD STEPHENS-HOWLING\*\*, Shane Brooks\*, Kevin Collier\*

**Fullback (1):** CONREDGE COLLINS\*\*

#### DEFENSE (20)

**End (3):** JOE CLERMOND\*\*\*, CHRIS MCKILLOP\*\*\*, Doug Fulmer\*

**Tackle (3):** RASHAAD DUNCAN\*\*, GUS MUSTAKAS\*\*, John Malecki\*

**Linebacker (3):** Adam Gunn\*\*, Scott McKillop\*\*, Steve Dell\*

**Strong Safety (2):** Elijah Fields\*, Shane Murray\*

**Free Safety (4):** MIKE PHILLIPS\*\*, ERIC THATCHER\*\*, Jemeel Brady\*\*\*, Irvan Brown\*

**Cornerback (5):** KENNARD COX\*\*\*, Aaron Berry\*, Jovani Chappel\*, Lowell Robinson\*, Mike Toerper\*

#### SPECIALISTS (2)

**Kicker (1):** CONOR LEE\*

**Punter (0):**

**Long Snapper (1):** Mark Estermyer\*\*

**LETTERMEN RETURNING: 48**

**STARTERS RETURNING: 15**

26 Offense (8 starters)  
20 Defense (6 starters)  
2 Specialists (1 starter)

**LETTERMEN LOST: 21**

**STARTERS LOST: 9**

9 Offense (3 starters)  
11 Defense (5 starters)  
1 Specialist (1 starter)

**NOTE:** Players are listed under 2006 positions. This listing does not reflect any position changes for the 2007 season.

CAPS indicate returning starters.

\* indicates letters earned.

Eric Thatcher and Mike Phillips are considered returning "co-starters" at free safety. However, they are both counted as only one returning starter in the overall total.

### Personnel LOST

#### OFFENSE (9)

**Wide Receiver (2):** Joe DelSardo\*\*\*\*, Branden Ballard\*\*

**Tackle (0):**

**Guard (1):** John Simonitis\*\*\*\*

**Center (1):** JOE VILLANI\*\*\*

**Tight End (1):** STEVE BUCHES\*\*\*\*

**Quarterback (2):** TYLER PALKO\*\*\*\*, Matt Flaus\*

**Tailback (1):** Kelvin Drewery\*

**Fullback (1):** Mark Yezovich\*

#### DEFENSE (11)

**End (3):** Charles Sallet\*\*\*\*, Vernon Botts\*\*\*, McKenzie Mathews\*

**Tackle (1):** Corey Davis\*\*

**Linebacker (4):** BRIAN BENNETT\*\*\*\*, H.B. BLADES\*\*\*\*,

CLINT SESSION\*\*\*\*, Tommie Campbell\*\*

**Strong Safety (1):** SAM BRYANT\*\*\*\*

**Free Safety (0):**

**Cornerback (2):** DARRELLE REVIS\*\*\*, Reggie Carter\*\*\*

#### SPECIALISTS (1)

**Kicker (0):**

**Punter (1):** ADAM GRAESSLE\*\*\*\*

**Long Snapper (0):**



Conredge Collins

# Preseason Honors

## PRESEASON BIG EAST PREDICTIONS

*Athlon Sports*: 6th  
*Blue Ribbon Yearbook*: 5th  
*Lindy's*: 6th  
*Street & Smith's*: 6th  
*The Sporting News*: 5th  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview*: 5th

## INDIVIDUAL HONORS

### Pat Bostick *Quarterback*

*Athlon Sports* No. 4 Big East Newcomer  
*Street & Smith's* Big East's "Top Impact Freshman"

### Dave Brytus *Punter*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (third team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (first team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* Nation's No. 18 Punter  
*The Sporting News* All-Big East (second team)  
*Street & Smith's* All-Big East  
*Street & Smith's* Ray Guy Award Candidate  
*Street & Smith's* Honorable Mention All-American

### Myles Caragein *Defensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* No. 12 Big East Newcomer

### Joe Clermond *Defensive Lineman*

Bednarik Award Watch List  
Bronko Nagurski Trophy Watch List  
Ted Hendricks Defensive End of the Year Award Watch List  
*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (second team)  
*Lindy's* Nation's No. 12 Defensive End  
*Lindy's* All-Big East (first team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (third team)  
*The Sporting News* All-Big East (first team)

### Conredge Collins *Fullback*

*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* Nation's No. 23 Fullback

### C.J. Davis *Offensive Lineman*

*The Sporting News* All-Big East (second team)

### Dom DeCicco *Defensive Back*

*Athlon Sports* No. 16 Big East Newcomer

### Chris Jacobson *Offensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* No. 3 Big East Newcomer

### Derek Kinder *Wide Receiver*

Maxwell Award Watch List  
*Lindy's* Nation's No. 10 Receiver  
*Lindy's* All-Big East (first team)  
*Lindy's* Big East's "Best Hands"

*Lindy's* Big East's Top 10 NFL Talent (No. 3)  
*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (first team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (first team)  
*The Sporting News* All-Big East (second team)  
*The Sporting News* Big East's "Most Physical Receiver"  
*Street & Smith's* All-Big East  
Rivals.com All-Reliable Team

### Conor Lee *Placekicker*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (third team)  
Rivals.com All-Reliable Team

### Brandon Lindsey *Linebacker*

*Athlon Sports* No. 13 Big East Newcomer

### Dan Matha *Offensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* No. 14 Big East Newcomer

### LeSean McCoy *Running Back*

*Lindy's* Big East Newcomer of the Year  
*The Sporting News* Big East Newcomer of the Year

### Mike McGlynn *Offensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (second team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (second team)

### Scott McKillop *Linebacker*

*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (third team)

### Jeff Otah *Offensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (third team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (third team)

### Lowell Robinson *Kick Returner*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (first team)  
*Blue Ribbon Yearbook* All-Big East  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* Nation's No. 6 Kick Returner  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (first team)  
*The Sporting News* All-Big East (first team)

### LaRod Stephens-Howling *Running Back*

*Lindy's* All-Big East (second team)  
*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (third team)

### Darrell Strong *Tight End*

*The Sporting News* All-Big East (second team)

### Eric Thatcher *Defensive Back*

*The Sporting News* All-Big East (first team)

### Joe Thomas *Offensive Lineman*

*Lindy's* All-Big East (second team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (second team)

### Tony Tucker *Defensive Lineman*

*Athlon Sports* No. 7 Big East Newcomer

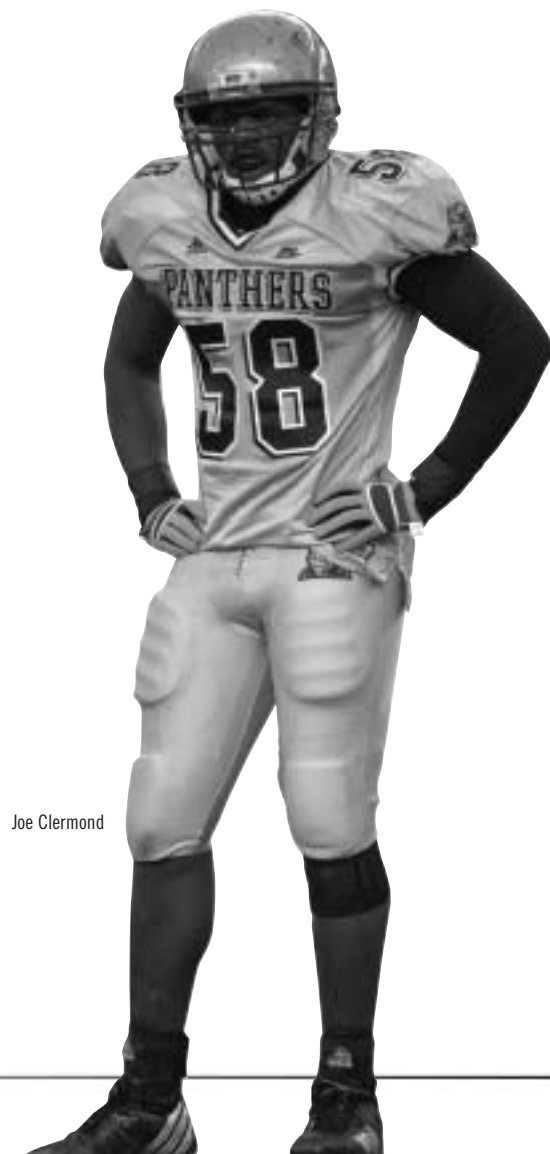
### Oderick Turner *Wide Receiver*

*Athlon Sports* All-Big East (third team)  
*Phil Steele's College Football Preview* All-Big East (second team)

### Maurice Williams *Wide Receiver*

*Athlon Sports* No. 9 Big East Newcomer

## HONORS LISTING AS OF JULY 1



Joe Clermond