

## 2006 Schedule & Opponent Notes

The University of Pittsburgh's 2006 football schedule features a compelling slate of bowl teams, traditional programs and programs on the rise.

The Panthers will play a 12-game regular season, including seven home contests at Heinz Field. The NCAA has permitted Division I-A schools to schedule a 12<sup>th</sup> regular-season game every year beginning in 2006.

The extra game gave Pitt the opportunity to schedule seven home games, one more than last year and the most in four seasons. The Panthers' home opponents include the best of the Big East Conference and non-league games against foes from the Atlantic Coast Conference and Big 10.

The Panthers will open the 2006 season at home against **Virginia** of the ACC on **Sept. 2**. The Cavaliers are one of seven bowl teams the Panthers will face this year.

In addition to Virginia, Pitt will host Big 10 foe **Michigan State (Sept. 16)** and one of the nation's winningest programs in **Toledo (Sept. 30)**. Also visiting Heinz Field will be three Big East bowl teams: **Rutgers (Oct. 21)**, Sugar Bowl champion **West Virginia (Nov. 16)** and **Louisville (Nov. 25)**. **The Citadel** will also visit Pittsburgh (**Sept. 23**).

Pitt will open Big East play on the road with the "River City Rivalry" at **Cincinnati (Sept. 8)** and also play league games at **Syracuse (Oct. 7)**, **South Florida (Nov. 4)** and **Connecticut (Nov. 11)**. The Panthers' lone non-conference road game will be at **Central Florida (Oct. 13)** in Orlando, site of Pitt's 2001 Tangerine Bowl triumph.

Pitt has three national television dates already set. The 2006 edition of the "Backyard Brawl" against West Virginia will be a Thursday night ESPN telecast for the third consecutive year. The Cincinnati contest will be televised by ESPN2, while the Central Florida game is on ESPN.

"We are excited about the quality of the home schedule we are playing for our student-athletes and fans," Pitt athletic director Jeff Long said. "Our fans are going to be treated to a great season at Heinz Field with our team taking on our Big East rivals plus strong teams from the ACC and Big 10."

"From the season opener to the final game, we will play a very competitive and entertaining schedule this year," Head Coach Dave Wannstedt said. "We will be facing teams in and out of conference that are perennial winners and annual bowl participants. The race for the Big East title and BCS bid will be as competitive as ever and it definitely gives our players something to prepare for during their offseason workouts."

Fans can purchase season tickets via the Internet at [www.PittsburghPanthers.com](http://www.PittsburghPanthers.com), by phone (800/643-PITT) or in person at the Petersen Events Center ticket office.

Pitt football remains one of the region's best sports buys, featuring all of the color and pageantry of college football in one of the nation's finest football stadiums in Heinz Field. Season-ticket prices for the majority of seats range from \$99 to \$199. Seats in the amenity-filled club section are \$315 (with commensurate Panther Club contribution).

### 2006 Pitt Schedule

Date	Opponent (TV)	Time
Sept. 2	Virginia	TBA
Sept. 8 (Fri.)	at Cincinnati* (ESPN2)	8 p.m.
Sept. 16	Michigan State	TBA
Sept. 23	The Citadel	TBA
Sept. 30	Toledo	TBA
Oct. 7	at Syracuse*	TBA
Oct. 13 (Fri.)	at Central Florida (ESPN)	8 p.m.
Oct. 21	Rutgers*	TBA
Oct. 28	OPEN	
Nov. 4	at South Florida*	TBA
Nov. 11	at Connecticut*	TBA
Nov. 16 (Thurs.)	West Virginia* (ESPN)	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 25	Louisville*	TBA

\*indicates Big East Conference game

Due to television considerations, TBA kickoff times will be announced at a later date

**Virginia (Sept. 2):** Pitt opens the 2006 season by hosting Virginia...the Cavaliers are the first Atlantic Coast Conference team to visit Heinz Field...it will be the first regular-season meeting between the two schools since 1955...the teams' last meeting occurred during the postseason in the 2003 Continental Tire Bowl, won by Virginia, 23-16...the Cavaliers finished 7-5 last year, including a 34-31 victory over Minnesota in the Music City Bowl...Virginia will be shooting for a fifth consecutive bowl berth in 2006...Pitt leads the all-time series, 2-1...the Panthers will play at Virginia in 2007.

**at Cincinnati (Sept. 8):** Pitt opens Big East play by visiting Cincinnati for the first time since 1922...the winner of this game earns the River City Rivalry Trophy...this is the Bearcats' second season as Big East members...the Panthers defeated Cincinnati in Heinz Field last year, 38-20...the Bearcats finished 4-7...Pitt leads the all-time series, 5-0...the game has already been scheduled as an ESPN2 national telecast.

**Michigan State (Sept. 16):** Pitt meets Michigan State for the first time since 1960...MSU will be the first Big 10 team to play at Heinz Field...the Panthers last played a Big 10 foe in 2000 when they shut out Penn State, 12-0, at Three Rivers Stadium...Michigan State leads the all-time series with Pitt, 4-0-1...Pitt and Michigan State tied 7-7 in the '60 affair played at Pitt Stadium...the Panthers will also play Michigan State in 2007 at East Lansing.

## 2006 Schedule Notes...

**The Citadel (Sept. 23):** The Citadel will play a Division I-A team for the 11th consecutive year...since the Division I-AA level was created in 1978, The Citadel has played 42 games against I-A foes and has a 7-35 mark in those contests...over the last 10 years, the Bulldogs' I-A opponents have included Florida State, Auburn, Miami (Fla.), Florida, Louisiana State, Maryland, Clemson, Mississippi and Georgia Tech...this will be the first meeting between Pitt and The Citadel...the Bulldogs went 4-7 last year.

**Toledo (Sept. 30):** Pitt and Toledo meet for the third time...in the last meeting, the Rockets defeated visiting Pitt, 35-31, during the 2003 season...Pitt won the year prior in Heinz Field, 37-19...since 2000, Toledo ranks as one of the winningest programs in Division I-A...the Rockets are 55-19 over the last six seasons, good for a .743 winning percentage that ranks 11<sup>th</sup> nationally during that time span...the Rockets enter the 2006 campaign with a streak of 12 consecutive winning seasons...Toledo finished 9-3 last year, including a 45-13 triumph over UTEP in the GMAC Bowl...the Rockets finished just outside of the nation's Top 25, finishing No. 26 in the Associated Press poll and No. 29 in the *USA Today* coaches' poll...Pitt is 23-2 all-time versus the Mid-American Conference with both losses occurring on the road.

**at Syracuse (Oct. 7):** Pitt and Syracuse have met every year since the 1955 season...the Orange hold a 30-28-3 advantage in a series that dates back to 1916...the Panthers have won three of the last four meetings, including a 34-17 decision at Heinz Field last year...Pitt dropped a 38-31 decision in double overtime in its last visit to the Carrier Dome in 2004...since 1971 (35 seasons), 15 games in the series have been decided by a touchdown or less...Syracuse finished 1-10 last season.

**at Central Florida (Oct. 13):** Pitt meets Central Florida for the first time...UCF coach George O'Leary directed the nation's biggest turnaround last year, leading the Golden Knights to an 8-5 mark after they had gone 0-11 in 2004...Central Florida finished as the runner-up in Conference USA and advanced to the Hawaii Bowl, where it dropped a 49-48 overtime heartbreaker to Nevada...the game will be played at the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando, site of the Panthers' 2001 Tangerine Bowl victory over NC State (34-19).

**Rutgers (Oct. 21):** Pitt and Rutgers have met every year since 1985...the Panthers hold a 19-4 lead in the all-time series and have won eight of the last 10 meetings...the Scarlet Knights, though, snapped a six-game losing streak in the series last year when they defeated Pitt, 37-29, in Piscataway...the victory helped propel Rutgers to a 7-5 season and berth in the Insight Bowl, the Scarlet Knights' first postseason trip since 1978...despite dropping a 45-40 decision to Arizona State in the Insight Bowl, it was Rutgers' most successful campaign since 1992...Pitt and Rutgers last met at Heinz Field in 2004, a 41-17 Pitt victory.

**at South Florida (Nov. 4):** The 2006 season marks South Florida's second as a Big East member...Pitt leads the series, 2-1...the Panthers defeated the Bulls 31-17 at Heinz Field last year...Pitt will visit USF for the first time since the 2004 season, when the Panthers clinched an invite to the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl with a 43-14 victory...last year the Bulls earned their first bowl appearance with a berth in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, where they lost to NC State, 14-0...including last year's 6-6 mark, USF has a 34-22 record (.607) over the last five seasons.

**at Connecticut (Nov. 11):** Pitt and Connecticut have split the only two meetings between the two schools...the Panthers blanked the Huskies, 24-0, in Pittsburgh last year...UConn won the inaugural meeting during the 2004 season in East Hartford, 29-17...the Huskies have won 26 of their last 39 games (.667)...they finished 5-6 last season.

**West Virginia (Nov. 16):** With 98 prior meetings dating back to 1895, Pitt and West Virginia have the longest running series among Big East schools...the "Backyard Brawl" ranks 29<sup>th</sup> among the most-played rivalries in NCAA I-A...the game will be an ESPN Thursday night telecast for the third consecutive year...the teams have split the last six meetings...West Virginia won in Morgantown last year, 45-13...the Panthers won the last encounter in Pittsburgh, 16-13, in 2004...the Big East champion Mountaineers finished 11-1 last season, including a 38-35 victory over Georgia in the Sugar Bowl to earn a No. 5 national ranking...Pitt leads the all-time series, 59-36-3.

**Louisville (Nov. 25):** Pitt will host Louisville for the first time since the 1993 season...the Panthers dropped a 42-20 decision in Louisville last year...the Cardinals ranked as high as No. 19 in the final national polls last year with a 9-3 record...as the Big East runner-up, Louisville advanced to the Gator Bowl, where it lost to Virginia Tech, 35-24...Pitt has lost five consecutive games to the Cardinals and trail the all-time series, 5-4...the Panthers' last win in the series occurred in 1983, a 55-10 road victory over the Cardinals.