

2008 Pitt Panthers Softball



at the
**Big East
Championships**

first round vs.
DePaul
May 8 at 12:30 p.m.

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The Story

Reaching a school record 12 Big East wins this season, the University of Pittsburgh softball team earned its third consecutive Big East Championship berth and enters the tournament as the seventh seed, facing No. 2 seed DePaul at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, May 8, in Louisville, Ky. The winner of the Pitt-DePaul game faces the winner of No. 3 Connecticut and No. 6 Syracuse on Friday, May 9, at 2:30 p.m.

Coming off a 7-3 victory over No. 23 DePaul (45-16, 16-6 BE), the Panthers (31-24, 12-10 BE) garnered their fourth victory over a ranked opponent this season. In the win, sophomore Kayla Zinger posted her 13th victory of the season on the mound, while sophomore Megan Livesey drove in the winning run with a shallow hit to center field in the sixth inning.

Zinger holds a 1.42 ERA and seven wins in league games this season. Sharing the bulk of the pitching duties this season, freshman Cory Berliner has struck out 148 batters on the season and sits on a single-season record for wins at 16.

Junior Samantha Card led Pitt during its final regular-season conference games with a .444 batting average and was a perfect 4-4 in stolen bases.

On the season, Card leads with a .394 average at the plate and boasts an impressive 12 home runs and 44 RBI on the year. She and senior Jessica Dignon top the single-season RBI record list, as Dignon has 43 to date.

2008 Roster

No.	Name	Year	Position	Hometown/School
1	Kaitlyn Schuster	JR	P	Ellwood City, Pa./Lincoln
3	Samantha Card	JR	C	Miami, Fla./Florida International
5	Meghan Livesey	SO	3B	Livingston, N.J./Montclair Kimberly Acad.
6	Cory Berliner	FR	P	Ft. Collins, Colo./Rocky Mountain
8	Kelly Murphy	SR	DP	Succasunna, N.J./Roxbury
10	Alyssa O'Connell	FR	P	Turnersville, N.J./Camden Catholic
11	Ashley Amistade	FR	OF	Washington, Pa./Trinity
13	Rebecca Stottlemeyer	SR	OF	Charleroi, Pa./Home School
16	Val Mihalik	SR	OF	Schnecksville, Pa./Parkland
17	Alicia Broudy	FR	1B	Pittsburgh, Pa./Baldwin
18	Jessica Dignon	SR	SS	Pittsburgh, Pa./Baldwin
19	Mollie Illenberger	FR	C	Doylestown, Pa./Central Bucks West
21	Kelly Stiles	SR	OF	Thurmont, Md./Catoclin
22	Reba Tutt	FR	OF/SS	Culpeper, Va./Highland School
24	Kayla Zinger	SO	P	Phoenix, Ariz./Sunnyslope
33	Mary Hecker	SR	2B	Roseville, Calif./Roseville

Head Coach: Michelle Phalen

Assistant Coaches: Holly Aprile & Gina Bianchini

2008 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 8-11	@ Florida International Tournament	Miami, Fla.	
February 8	Texas-Arlington	Miami, Fla.	W, 3-1
	Virginia Tech	Miami, Fla.	W, 3-0
February 9	Missouri	Miami, Fla.	W, 2-1
February 10	Florida International	Miami, Fla.	W, 2-0
Feb. 16-17	@ Longwood Lead-Off Classic	Farmville, Va.	
February 16	Moorehead State	Farmville, Va.	L, 4-0
	Longwood	Farmville, Va.	W, 6-0
February 17	Eastern Michigan	Farmville, Va.	W, 2-0
	Bucknell	Farmville, Va.	L, 4-1
Feb. 29-Mar. 2	@ UNLV Eller Media Classic	Las Vegas, Nev.	
February 29	California	Las Vegas, Nev.	L, 3-2
	UNLV	Las Vegas, Nev.	L, 12-1(5)
March 1	Western Kentucky	Las Vegas, Nev.	W, 2-1
	Long Beach State	Las Vegas, Nev.	L, 7-3
March 2	Hawai'i	Las Vegas, Nev.	L, 8-1
March 8-9	@ University of Kansas Tournament	Lawrence, Kan.	
Kan.			
March 8	Indiana State	Lawrence, Kan.	Cancelled
	Western Illinois	Lawrence, Kan.	W, 4-3 (8)
March 9	Western Illinois	Lawrence, Kan.	W, 7-0
	Kansas	Lawrence, Kan.	L, 4-3 (10)
March 12	@ Maryland (DH)	College Park, Md.	L, 6-0
	@ Maryland	College Park, Md.	W, 5-4
March 14-16	@ James Madison Tournament	Harrisonburg, Va.	
March 14	Akron	Harrisonburg, Va.	L, 6-5
	James Madison	Harrisonburg, Va.	L, 4-1
March 15	Canisius	Harrisonburg, Va.	L, 2-1 (8)
	James Madison	Harrisonburg, Va.	W, 13-2 (5)
March 16	Akron	Harrisonburg, Va.	W, 8-5
March 29	@ VILLANOVA(DH)	Villanova, Pa.	W, 7-3
			W, 1-0
March 30	@ RUTGERS(DH)	Piscataway, N.J.	W, 9-3
			L, 3-1
April 2	@ Akron(DH)	Akron, Ohio	W, 10-0
			W, 10-2 (6)
April 5	CONNECTICUT(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	L, 8-3
			W, 1-0
April 6	PROVIDENCE(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	W, 3-0
			W, 1-0
April 8	@ Penn State(DH)	State College, Pa.	W, 2-0
			L, 6-0
April 11	@ SOUTH FLORIDA(DH)	Tampa, Fla.	L, 1-0
			L, 2-1
April 13	@ LOUISVILLE(DH)	Louisville, Ky.	L, 11-4
			W, 8-0
April 15	Robert Morris(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	W, 9-2
			W, 9-0 (5)
April 19	SETON HALL(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	W, 5-4
			W, 5-2
April 20	ST JOHN'S(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	W, 5-2
			L, 2-0
April 26	SYRACUSE(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	L, 5-3
			L, 2-1
April 29	Youngstown State(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	W, 11-3
			W, 8-2 (6)
April 30	@ St. Francis(DH)	Loretto, Pa.	L, 6-0
			L, 5-4 (8)
May 3	NOTRE DAME(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	L, 1-0
			W, 4-2
May 4	DEPAUL(DH)	Pittsburgh, Pa.	L, 4-1
			W, 7-3
May 8	DePaul (Big East Tournament)	Louisville, Ky.	12:30 p.m.

Pronunciation Guide

Ashley Amistade.....Am-eh-stade
 Cory Berliner.....Bur-len-err
 Jessica Dignon.....DIG-nin
 Megan Livesey.....Live-see
 Valerie Mihalik.....Ma-HALL-ick
 Kaitlyn Schuster.....SHOO-ster

ESPN.com/USA Softball Top 25 Poll

- 1 Florida
- 2 Arizona State
- 3 UCLA
- 4 Alabama
- 5 Michigan
- 6 Texas A&M
- 7 Oklahoma
- 8 Stanford
- 9 Arizona
- 10 Fresno State
- 11 Houston
- 12 Northwestern
- 13 North Carolina
- 14 Tennessee
- 15 LSU
- 16 Long Beach State
- 17 Virginia Tech
- 18 Louisiana-Lafayette
- 19 San Diego State
- 20 Nevada
- 21 UMass
- 22 Hawaii
- 23 DePaul
- 24 Washington
- 25 Cal

Pitt Quick Facts

School: University of Pittsburgh
Location: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213
Founded: 1787
Enrollment: 33,792
Nickname: Panthers
Colors: Blue and Gold
Home Field: Trees Field (500)
Affiliation: NCAA Division I
Conference: BIG EAST
Chancellor: Mark A. Nordenberg
Alma Mater: Thiel 1970
Athletic Director: Steve C. Pederson
Alma Mater: Nebraska 1980
Athletic Department Phone: (412) 648-8200

Back to the Championships!...

Pitt earned its third consecutive trip to the Big East Championships with a record-setting 12 conference wins this season. The Panthers earned a seven seed and face No. 2 seed DePaul for the third time in the last seven days on Thursday. The two team split the regular-season meetings, as DePaul won a 4-1 game one and Pitt was victorious in a 7-3 game two.

First Time for Everything....

The Panthers recorded two firsts in their regular-season finale at Trees Field. On Saturday the team earned a 4-2 victory over Notre Dame in the second game of its doubleheader, marking the first time in 21 tries Pitt came out on top. The following day, the Panthers garnered another split, as they won 7-3 in the second game against DePaul-the first in six attempts.

Get Use to the Upset...

Pitt has upset four of the five ranked teams faced this season. In the opening weekend, the Panthers defeated No. 16 Virginia Tech (1-0) and No. 25 Missouri (2-1). Pitt then won the second game of its doubleheader against No. 23 Maryland (5-4), after falling 8-1 to No 16 Hawaii. Pitt's final top 25 match-up resulted in a 7-3 victory in the second game of its doubleheader against DePaul.

2008 STANDINGS

	BIG EAST		Overall	
	W-L	Pct.	W-L	Pct
USF	16-4	.800	42-17	.712
DePaul	16-6	.727	45-16	.738
Notre Dame	13-7	.650	27-21	.562
Connecticut	14-8	.600	37-19-1	.658
Louisville	12-8	.650	29-20	.592
Syracuse	12-10	.545	21-31	.404
Pittsburgh.	12-10	.545	31-24	.564
Providence	8-12	.400	25-24-2	.510
Villanova	7-15	.318	21-29-1	.422
Rutgers	7-15	.318	23-32	.418
Seton Hall	6-16	.273	20-33	.377
St. John's.	5-17	.227	20-35	.364

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Michelle Phalen

Alma Mater: Missouri '88

Record at School: 236-326-1

Overall Record: 236-326-1

Assistant Coaches:

Holly Aprile (Massachusetts, '92),

Gina Bianchini (Penn State, '03)

2008 Depth Chart

1B-ALICIA BROUDY

Samantha Card
Mary Hecker

2B-MARY HECKER

Samantha Card

SS-JESS DIGNON

Reba Tutt

3B-MEGAN LIVESEY

Jess Dignon

LF-REBECCA STOTTLEMYER

Ashley Amistade
Kelly Murphy

CF-REBA TUTT

Rebecca Stottlemeyer

RF-KELLY STILES

Ashley Amistade

P-KAYLA ZINGER

Cory Berliner
Alyssa O'Connell
Kaitlyn Schuster

C-SAMANTHA CARD

Mary Hecker
Mollie Illenberger

Going, Going, Going Still...

With her 12th homer of the season, junior Sam Card is now second overall on the single-season home run list. She needs just three more to tie Jacki Haar's 1999 record.

Keeping the Pace...

Pitt's 7-3 win over DePaul was its 12 Big East victory of the season, which eclipsed the 2006 school record for conference wins in a season.

Need a Ride...

Senior Jessica Dignon broke the single-season RBI record against Robert Morris earlier this season and already holds the career record with over 110 to date. However, Samantha Card just passed Dignon on the single-season list and boasts 44 on the year.

Rookie Firsts...

Freshman Cory Berliner broke the single-season wins record in her 16th victory of the year against Youngstown State and is the first-ever freshman to post more than 11 wins in her rookie season.

Another Rookie First...

Freshman Reba Tutt stole her team- and league-leading 26th base of the season, which surpassed Robin Johnston' 2000 mark of 24 as the second-best overall mark in single-season records.

Zeros Across...

Pitt broke a school record with its 13th shutout of the season against Robert Morris. The record was last set in 2000 at 11.

Team Leaders In Batting....

Batting Avg

1. CARD, S.....394
2. DIGNON, J376
3. TUTT, R.....280
4. HECKER, M.....270
5. AMISTADE, A.....226

Runs Batted In

1. DIGNON, J44
2. CARD, S43
3. HECKER, M.....26
4. TUTT, R.....16
5. ZINGER, K.....15

Hits

1. DIGNON, J64
2. CARD, S61
3. TUTT, R.....47
4. HECKER, M.....41
5. AMISTADE, A.....37

Home Runs

1. CARD, S12
2. DIGNON, J.....6
3. HECKER, M.....4
4. TUTT, R.....4

Runs Scored

1. DIGNON, J42
2. AMISTADE, A.....38
3. TUTT, R.....37
4. CARD, S33
5. HECKER, M.....19

Stolen Bases

1. TUTT, R.....26
2. AMISTADE, A.....19
3. CARD, S17
4. DIGNON, J9
5. LIVESEY, M.....5

Team Leaders In Pitching....

Earned Run Avg

1. ZINGER, K1.92
2. BERLINER, C2.02
3. SCHUSTER, K2.42

Wins

1. BERLINER, C16
2. ZINGER, K.....13
3. SCHUSTER, K.....1
- O'CONNELL, A....1

Batters Struck Out

1. BERLINER, C148
2. ZINGER, K.....68
3. O'CONNELL, A....11
4. SCHUSTER, K.....9

Opposing Batting Avg

1. BERLINER, C246
2. ZINGER, K.....249
3. SCHUSTER, K252

Saves

1. BERLINER, C3
2. SCHUSTER, K2
3. ZINGER, K.....1

Batters SO Looking

1. BERLINER, C64
2. ZINGER, K23
3. SCHUSTER, K1
- O'CONNELL, A....1

W-L Percentage

1. BERLINER, C571
2. ZINGER, K..... .542
3. SCHUSTER, K 500

Innings Pitched

1. BERLINER, C201
2. ZINGER, K.....142
3. SCHUSTER, K17.1

Hits Allowed

1. SCHUSTER, K17
2. ZINGER, K.....138
3. BERLINER, C194

Team Leaders In Fielding....

Chances

1. BROUDY, A.....546
2. CARD, S299
3. DIGNON, J281
4. HECKER, M.....228
5. LIVESEY, M.....164

Putouts

1. BROUDY, A..... 513
2. CARD, S 253
3. HECKER, M..... 111
4. DIGNON, J 78
5. TUTT, R..... 54

Big East Pitcher of the Week

Cory Berliner (Feb. 18)

Big East Honor Roll

Mary Hecker (March 3)
 Cory Berliner (March 10)
 Jessica Dignon (March 10, April 14)
 Sam Card (March 31, May 5)
 Kayla Zinger (April 7)

Win-Loss Record When

After 4 leading.....	22-2
..... trailing.....	2-18
..... tied.....	7-4
After 5 leading.....	24-1
..... trailing.....	2-19
..... tied.....	3-3
After 6 leading.....	26-1
..... trailing.....	0-19
..... tied.....	1-3
Hit 0 home runs.....	14-21
... 1 home run.....	12-2
... 2+ home runs.....	5-1
Opponent 0 home runs...	24-16
..... 1 home run...	6-7
..... 2+ HRs.....	1-1
Scoring 0-2 runs.....	8-17
..... 3-5 runs.....	9-7
..... 6-9 runs.....	10-0
..... 10+ runs.....	4-0
Opponent 0-2 runs.....	23-6
..... 3-5 runs.....	8-9
..... 6-9 runs.....	0-7
..... 10+ runs.....	0-2
Made 0 errors.....	15-6
...1 error.....	6-6
...2+ errors.....	10-12
Opponents made 0 errors...	8-8
.....made 1 error...	10-7
...made 2+ errors...	13-9
Scored in 1st inning.....	13-3
Opp. scored in 1st.....	4-12
Scores first.....	24-4
Opponent scores first...	7-20
Out-hit opponents.....	21-0
Out-hit by opponent....	5-23
Hits are tied.....	5-1

First to the Scene...

Pitt is 10-1 when scoring first in league games. It is also 4-1 when scoring in the first inning and 8-6 when conference opponents visited Trees Field.

Charging Through...

Pitt's best offensive outpour in Big East play was against Rutgers on March 30 when the Panthers scored nine runs off 10 hits. A close second was the eight runs and nine hits tallied against Louisville on April 13.

Staring in the Middle...

The pitching team of Kayla Zinger and Cory Berliner have combined for five conference shutouts, this season.

Top of the Conference...

The Panthers lead the conference with 88 stolen bases and rank second with nine triples on the season. Additionally, they recorded a league and game high with four triples against Louisville.

Gone Before You Notice...

Jessica Dignon led the league in runs scored earlier on the season, and tied the single-season record at 42 that was last set by Francesca DiMaria in 2003.

Nothing For You...

Sophomore Kayla Zinger recorded back-to-back shutouts over Big East opponents, as she pitched her first-career no-hitter against Connecticut. Zinger became just the fourth Panther to accomplish this feat in a seven-inning game. Nearly a perfect game, she allowed just one walk, struck out six batters and recorded three assists.

Senior Leadership...

Captain Jessica Dignon smacked her career-high fifth home run of the season in the 1-0 Providence contest. On the week, Dignon led all with 10 RBI and is the school record holder, as she bested Francesca DiMaria's (2003-06) mark of 92. Additionally, she sits second behind DiMaria's 133 in runs scores.

Pitt vs. Top 25

No. 16 Virginia Tech	W, 3-0
No. 25 Missouri	W, 2-1
No. 16 Hawaii	L, 8-1
No. 23 Maryland	W, 5-4*
No. 23 DePaul	W, 7-3*

*game two of doubleheader

Pitt Receives Votes In USA Today/ NFCA Top 25 Poll

For the first time in program history, Pitt's softball team earned votes in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 Poll, announced Feb 12, 2008.

In their season-opener, the Panthers tallied a perfect 4-0 record that included impressive back-to-back wins over then-No. 16 Virginia Tech (3-0) and then-No. 25 Missouri (2-1) in the Florida International Tournament. Pitt's win over the Hokies marked the highest-ranked team the Panthers ever defeated.

During the weekend, Pitt limited its opponents to one run, while posting shutouts over the Hokies and Florida International (2-0).

Both pitchers, sophomore Kayla Zinger and freshman Cory Berliner tallied 2-0 records in the victories. Zinger tallied two shutouts and a .000 ERA, while Berliner made her debut with nine strikeouts, a .063 ERA and a save in her 14.1 innings. Berliner also became the first freshman to post a two-hitter in a complete game.

Pitt's offense was led by senior shortstop Jessica Dignon, who blasted two homeruns, drove in seven runs and chipped in a .333 batting average.

Grand Ole Time...

Senior Jessica Dignon recorded her first-career grand slam against Akron, lifting the Panthers to a 10-2 win. Her fifth homer of the year, Dignon joined Kelly Stiles as the only active members of the team to hit a grand slam.

Starting off with a Bang...

Pitt opened Big East play this season with a 3-1 record in doubleheaders against conference foes Villanova and Rutgers. The Panthers outscored the Wildcats 8-3 in their two games and tallied two homeruns from Jess Dignon and Sam Card in a 9-3 victory over the Scarlet Knights.

Short and Sweet...

Tied at second in team individual single-game records, Sam Card tallied five RBI in the Panther's short, five inning victory over James Madison. The last time a player recorded five RBI in a game was Lisa McGregor in 2006 against Villanova. She did it again against Youngstown St. with two homers in the same contest.

Remember Your First...

Freshman Reba Tutt blasted her first homer as a Panther in the one-run victory over then No. 23 Maryland. Tutt was 3-4 with two runs and two RBI in the contest.

Movin' On Up...

Adding her name to the Panther career record books, senior Jess Dignon is currently first in RBI (111), doubles (45), second in runs scored (115) and tied for second in triples (6).

Higher and Higher...

Jess Dignon and Ashley Amistade lead Pitt's individual single-game highs with four runs scored in a game. The last Panther to accomplish this was Ana Valezquez in 2003. Dignon also recorded an individual game-high with eight assists against Western Illinois.

The Big 200...

Head Coach Michelle Phalen recorded the 200th win of her career with a 6-0 shutout against Longwood. Phalen was named the first-ever softball coach at Pitt, 10 years.

Major Upset...

After dropping their first three games in the James Madison Tournament, the Panthers rallied a 13-2 victory in five innings over JMU in the semifinals. The win carried Pitt to the championship game where they defeated Akron for the tournament title. The win over the Zips was only the third time in the series for the Panther history.

New Beginnings...

The Panthers opened the season 4-0 for the first time in program history in addition to a first-place finish at the Florida International Tournament.

A Record-Setting Win...

The Panthers rolled over Penn State in a 2-0 shut out. This was the first time in program history Pitt beat the Nitany Lions.

Tracking Pitt's Single-Season School Records

Batting Average

1. Samantha Card.....394
2. Jessica Dignon.....376

Saves

- T2. Cory Berliner.....3

Home Runs

2. Samantha Card.....12

Wins

1. Cory Berliner.....16

Runs Batted In

1. Samantha Card.....44
2. Jessica Dignon.....43

Earned Run Average

1. Kayla Zinger.....1.92
3. Cory Berliner.....2.02

Shutouts

- T2. Cory Berliner.....5

Doubles

1. Jessica Dignon.....17

Stolen Bases

2. Reba Tutt.....26

Win-Loss Percentage

2. Cory Berliner....16-12
(.571)

Tracking Pitt's Career School Records

Batting Average

- 2. Jessica Dignon.....326
- 4. Samantha Card.....309

At Bats

- 4. Jessica Dignon.....635

Runs Batted In

- 1. Jessica Dignon.....111

Runs Scored

- 2. Jessica Dignon.....115

Doubles

- 1. Jessica Dignon.....45

Triples

- T2. Jessica Dignon.....6
- T3. Valerie Mihalik.....5

Saves

- T4. Cory Berliner.....3
- T4. Kaitlyn Schuster.....3

Career Hits

- 2. Jessica Dignon.....207

Home Runs

- 3. Sam Card.....18

Shutouts

- 1. Pitt.....13

ERA

- 1. Cory Berliner.....2.02
- 3. Kayla Zinger.....2.62

Shutouts - Pitcher

- T5. Cory Berliner.....5

Zinger Pitches No-Hitter

Sophomore Kayla Zinger pitched her first-career no-hitter to lift the Pitt softball team to a 1-0 win and earn the split against Connecticut, this afternoon at Trees Field. The Panthers improved to 18-13 on the season and 4-2 in the Big East, while the Huskies slipped to 12-13 on the year and 2-2 in the conference.

Zinger pitched Pitt's first no-hitter since Nikki Gasti (1999-2003) threw a no-hitter against Charlotte on Feb. 23, 2003. This is the sixth-ever no-hitter for Pitt and she becomes just the fourth Panther to accomplish this feat in a seven-inning game.

Nearly a perfect game, she allowed just one walk, struck out six batters and recorded three assists. Zinger improved to 7-6 on the mound and boasts a 1.67 ERA. The shutout was her second of the season and the squad's eighth.

Pitt recorded its lone run in the first inning after freshman Reba Tutt was walked with bases loaded. Senior Mary Hecker scored on the play, posting her eighth run of the season.

Pitt is now 9-2 when scoring in the first inning.

Zinger got a lot of help defensively as senior Kelly Stiles dived for a line down the left line for the third out of the fourth inning. Additionally, senior Jessica Dignon and Tutt ran in make catches in shallow territory during the game.

Rankings Among the NCAA

Earned Run Average	37.	Pitt	55G	370 INN	1.96ERA
Stolen Bases	24.	Pitt	55G	91SB	



After a decade of being Pitt's lone softball head coach at the University of Pittsburgh, Michelle Phalen has continually moved her team up the ranks in competition.

Last year marked the second consecutive year the Panthers advanced to the Big East Championships after missing the conference dance for eight years. Now an expectation, rather than a far off goal, Phalen seeks to win a Big East Championship title.

"This year we have very high expectations for our team," Phalen said. "We expect to make the Big East Championships and challenge for the title. We are counting on every

member of this team to contribute to our success."

In 2007, several Panthers recorded school-record performances for a season and in a career. However, the most notable achievement for Phalen and the team was their NCAA ranking in stolen bases.

For the first time, Pitt was among the nation's greatest the entire season, as they stole a program-record 177 bases in 2007, which shattered the mark set the previous year of 85.

During that record-setting performance, Pitt was ranked as high as sixth in the nation. Additionally, Phalen's club was ranked individually as Sheena Hellon was 25th in stolen bases and Jessica Dignon was 33rd on the hardest to strikeout list.

Leading the team in most offensive categories, Dignon became Phalen's second multi-honoree when she earned her second All-Big East third team nod at the conference banquet.

In 2006, eight school records were broken by the Panthers, on top of the team garnering its first-ever Big East Conference Tournament appearance. The records broken were all team marks for a season and included wins (32), hits (382), batting average (.259), RBIs (208), triples (14), runs scored (235), stolen bases (85) and run margin (+29).

"That year we really knew that we had a good group of people, a really good team. We didn't know what we were capable of, and we kept going and going."

In 2006, the Panthers won 32 games and finished seventh in the Big East, losing four seniors to graduation.

"We played some close games and won them that year, which was different from past years. We learned to fight through adversity," Phalen said. "We learned to win. That will to win has taken us a long way. We will not back down from any team. Our players are focused and intent on building on that season's success."

Pitt's first conference tournament win in 2006 included its first-ever victory over a ranked opponent when the Panthers stunned then-No. 25 USF in a 2-1 victory.

Phalen guided Joey Scarf and Jessica Dignon to All-Big East Conference honors. Scarf became just the second Panther in Pitt history to receive a first team selection, while Dignon received her first conference nod, as a third team selection.

On the academic side, the Panthers also earned the highest team GPA award during Pitt's annual scholar-athlete banquet for the first time in the program's history.

Pitt's 2005 squad opened the season against the would-be 2005 NCAA Champion Michigan Wolverines. Although Pitt suffered a 3-0 loss, it was anybody's game leading into the fifth inning.

In fact, in 2005 the team played every game close, staying competitive day in and day out. Pitt's defense showed only 70 errors on the season.

Pitt's 2005 season concluded when Francesca DiMaria and Casey Pickard, the lone senior, earned All-Big East honors.

Pitt won 21 games in 2004 but lost eight by just one run, a fact that Phalen points out would have turned the Panthers' record into a winning one.

In 2003, Phalen led the Panthers to a then-school-record 24 wins and seven Big East victories. A midseason school-record 11-game winning streak that included a sweep of Big East rival Syracuse put the Panthers in position to challenge most of the team records.

Phalen also helped DiMaria earn All-Big East first team honors

Head Coach Michelle Phalen

and All-Rookie honors, as well as NFCA Mid-Atlantic second team plaudits. Phalen's players also excelled in the classroom as Pickard earned the program's first Verizon Academic All-District 2 honor, and 10 players earned Big East Academic All-Star accolades.

Phalen's 2002 team led the Panthers to a sweep of Big East rival Villanova and wins against four other league opponents. She had 21 victories for the second time in three years. Phalen also produced two All-Big East second team honorees in Clare McCann and Heather Andrews.

During the 2001 season, Phalen led the Panthers to a sweep of Syracuse and wins against Big East opponents Providence, Boston College, Rutgers and St. John's for a total of six conference victories.

In 2000, she led the Panthers to a then-school-best 21 wins while also producing two All-Big East honorees in Robin Johnston and Amy Steich.

The 1999 season, only the Panthers' second and first as a member of the Big East, also had many highlights. Pitts began its 1999 campaign by garnering its first-ever victory with a 6-4 win over Indiana in the season opener. The Panthers went on to record 16 wins that year, including victories over conference rivals Connecticut and St. John's. Additionally, Katie Mitchell was recognized as a Big East All-Rookie selection.

Phalen, who was tabbed the Panthers' first-ever softball coach in July of 1997, is no stranger to success. Prior to her appointment at Pittsburgh, Phalen served two years as an assistant coach at South Carolina, a perennial softball power. While there, Phalen was responsible for recruiting as well as the Lady Gamecocks' field instruction, which included hitting and fielding.

During the 1997 season, Phalen helped guide South Carolina to a 63-5 mark, the third-highest win total in NCAA history, as well as the Southeastern Conference regular-season and tournament championships.

Included in the Lady Gamecocks' win total was a 38-game winning streak. South Carolina went on to win the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship and advanced to the College World Series.

A 1988 graduate of the University of Missouri with a bachelor's degree in social studies education, Phalen enjoyed an outstanding collegiate softball career. A four-year starting catcher for the Tigers, she earned All-Big Eight and All-Region honors as a senior and was also an All-Big Eight Academic honoree. One of the top hitters in Missouri history, Phalen's name can be found in the top five of many hitting categories.

Upon graduating, Phalen taught at D.J. Gross High School, her alma mater, in Omaha, Neb., for two years where she also served as soccer and volleyball coach. She returned to Missouri in 1992 as an assistant coach and helped lead the Tigers to the NCAA Regional twice and a College World Series berth in 1994.

Phalen received her master's degree in higher and adult education from Missouri in 1994.

Phalen's Coaching Record

	W	L	T
1998 Pitt	0	12	0
1999 Pitt	16	34	1
2000 Pitt	21	28	0
2001 Pitt	14	39	0
2002 Pitt	21	33	0
2003 Pitt	24	31	0
2004 Pitt	21	36	0
2005 Pitt	23	29	0
2006 Pitt	32	27	0
2007 Pitt	23	35	0
2008 Pitt	31	24	0
CAREER (11 Yrs.)	226	326	1

Seniors



18 • Jessica Dignon • SR • SS • R/R • Pittsburgh, Pa. • Baldwin

Team Captain Dignon recorded the Panthers' first homerun of the season, as Pitt upset No. 16 Virginia Tech in the FIU Tournament... earned all three RBIs in the game...garnered four assists from shortstop...blasted her second homerun of the season against Missouri in the FIU Tournament...singled in the third inning with two runners on to put the Panthers' two runs on the board in the championship game of the FIU Tournament...hit a lead-off single against Morehead State in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...smashed a triple against Long Beach State and tallied two hits at the UNLV Eller Media Classic... smacked a three-homer in the victory over Villanova...led the Panthers with six RBI and a run off 3-4 batting in the second game with Akron...tallied a career-first grand slam on her fourth homer of the season in the second game against Akron...hit her fifth-career home run of the season against Providence and recorded one RBI and three assists...smashed a double and a triple before stealing home against Louisville...broke the single-season RBI record in the Robert Morris contest and has 39 on the year...was 2-for-3 with a run and a RBI in the win over Notre Dame.

Dignon's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0.254	41/38	114	11	29	4	0	1	16	5	0-0	35	1	4	0.900
2006	0.337	59/59	184	29	62	11	3	1	29	9	14-17	57	155	5	0.977
2007	0.311	58/58	167	33	52	13	0	2	23	17	15-20	50	122	11	0.940
2008	0.376	55/55	170	42	64	17	3	6	43	7	9-14	78	186	17	0.940
Totals	0.326	213/210	635	115	207	45	6	10	111	38	38-51	220	464	37	0.949



33 • Mary Hecker • SR • 2B/C • R/R • Roseville, Calif. • Roseville

Hecker recorded Pitt's first triple of the season against Longwood in the Longwood Lead-off Classic...documented her first homerun of the season against Western Kentucky at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...slammed her second homerun of the season and a double versus Hawaii...garnered three RBI, 14 put outs and 11 assists in the UNLV Eller Media Classic...posted eighth run on the season against Providence...went 2-for-3 in the first game against DePaul and recorded eight putouts in the doubleheader.

Hecker's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0.192	34/29	78	3	15	1	0	0	9	2	1-2	36	54	2	0.978
2006	0.183	36/31	71	8	13	2	0	1	7	10	0-0	250	3	1	0.996
2007	0.192	49/41	104	10	20	1	0	0	10	10	4-4	70	8	1	0.987
2008	0.270	55/55	152	19	41	7	1	4	26	12	4-4	111	103	14	0.939
Totals	0.220	174/156	405	40	89	11	1	5	52	34	9-10	467	168	18	0.972



16 • Valerie Mihalik • SR • U • R/R • Schnecksville, Pa. • Parkland

Mihalik has not seen action this season due to injury.

Mihalik's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0.207	42/36	92	14	19	1	2	1	5	7	8-9	29	61	6	0.938
2006	0.161	45/23	56	18	9	0	2	0	1	10	6-8	19	2	1	0.955
2007	0.232	47/42	99	16	23	4	1	2	17	11	13-13	31	2	1	0.971
Totals	0.206	134/101	247	48	51	5	5	3	23	28	27-30	79	65	8	0.947

Seniors



8 • Kelly Murphy • SR • U • L/L • Succasunna, N.J. • Roxbury

Murphy scored a run for the Panthers in the 10-0 shutout victory over Akron...she served as a pinch runner again against Louisville...had three hits and three RBI against Youngstown State.

Murphy's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0	2/0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	5/0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
2007	0	9/3	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0-0	0	0	0	0
2008	0.214	19/5	14	4	3	0	0	0	3	0	1-1	0	0	0	.000
Totals	0.214	35/8	32	5	3	0	0	0	4	2	1-1	0	0	0	.000



21 • Kelly Stiles • SR • OF • R/R • Thurmont, Md. • Catoctin

Stiles helped the Panthers secure the win against Texas-Arlington in the FIU Tournament when she caught a fly ball in right field with bases loaded...tallied a sacrifice fly deep in left field for the Panthers against Bucknell in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...scored one run from her two hits in the game against Long Beach State at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...has played in 12 games this season, starting 11 of them...caught line drive against Providence, preventing two Friars from scoring...against Connecticut, caught a line drive to help teammate Zinger record her first no-hitter...smacked a two-RBI homer in the DePaul win to take a short lived lead early in the game,

Stiles' Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0.083	11/6	12	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0-0	6	1	1	0.875
2006	0.063	13/2	16	1	1	0	0	1	4	0	0-0	1	0	0	1.000
2007	0.125	24/20	48	3	6	2	0	1	11	4	2-2	14	2	0	1.000
2008	0.106	29/25	66	2	7	1	1	0	4	2	0-0	18	3	2	0.913
Totals	0.106	77/53	142	7	15	3	1	2	20	7	2-2	39	6	3	0.938



13 • Rebecca Stottlemeyer • SR • OF • R/R • Charleroi, Pa. • Home Schooled

Team Captain Stottlemeyer has seen the plate 27 times in 18 games this season... has tallied four hits and four runs..scored the Panthers' sole run against Rutgers... scored two runs off one hit in the Panthers final homestand of six games last week.

Stottlemeyer's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2005	0.000	6/0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0-0	0	0	0	0.000
2006	0.000	24/0	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	5-5	2	0	0	1.000
2007	0.100	34/2	10	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	5-5	1	0	0	1.000
2008	0.136	46/34	81	12	11	0	0	0	0	3	1-6	15	0	2	0.882
Totals	0.126	110/36	95	31	12	0	0	0	0	6	11-16	22	1	2	0.920

Juniors



6 • Samantha Card • JR • IF • R/R • Miami, Fla. • Our Lady of Lourdes/Florida International

Card went 3-for-4 at bat with one run, a RBI and a stolen base against Texas-Arlington in the FIU Tournament...scored the winning run of the Virginia Tech game after advancing to base on a single to right field...smacked a single up the middle to advance on base in the Missouri contest...caught two steals against Morehead State in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...slammed her first homerun of the season against Western Kentucky...garnered four hits, two RBI and one run at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...tallied 25 put outs at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...went 3-for-3 with four runs, a RBI, and six put outs against Rutgers...tallied her career-tying sixth homerun of the season against Rutgers, ranking her fifth on Pitt's all-time single season list...posted eighth homer of the season against Providence, putting her fifth on the all-time list...caught a strike at the plate to hold off a run against DePaul...was intentionally walked and scored the winning run over DePaul.

Card's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2007	0.226	58/58	159	25	36	7	0	6	23	18	10-14	395	16	4	0.990
2008	0.394	54/54	155	33	61	7	2	12	44	20	19-24	253	40	6	0.980
Totals	0.309	112/112	314	58	97	14	2	18	67	38	29-38	648	56	10	0.986



1 • Kaitlyn Schuster • JR • P • R/R • Ellwood City, Pa. • Lincoln

Schuster has pitched 7.1, boasting a .95 ERA this season...she has faced 27 batters and allowed only six hits...earned her second save of the season against Notre Dame, holding off the Irish's three batters in the seventh inning.

Schuster's Stats - Pitching

YR	ERA	G/GS	W-L	CG	SV	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
2006	3.00	7/2	1-0	0	0	0	11.2	19	7	5	4	5
2007	4.57	18/2	1-4	1	3	1	30.2	41	21	20	8	31
2008	2.42	13	3	1	0	2	0	17.1	17	11	6	9
Totals	3.33	38	7	3	5	1	5	1	44	77	39	31

Sophomores



5 • Megan Livesey • SO • 3B • R/R • Livingston, N.J. • Montclair Kimberly Academy

Livesey caught a line drive with the bases loaded to end the fifth inning of the championship game of the FIU Tournament...hit a double in the Panthers shutout victory over Longwood in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...hit a double versus Western Kentucky and scored a run against Long Beach State at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...recorded the Panthers' lone hit of the game in the 1-0 win over Villanova...scored a run in the contest against Akron...fielded a grounder for an out against Connecticut.

Livesey's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2007	0.154	10/2	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0-0	0	0	0	0.00
2008	0.13	55/55	146	8	19	3	0	0	10	12	5-5	27	125	12	0.92
Totals	0.132	65/57	159	9	21	3	0	0	10	13	5-5	27	125	12	0.927



20 • Kayla Zinger • SO • P • R/R • Phoenix, Ariz. • Sunnyslope

Zinger had a RBI single against Texas-Arlington in the FIU Tournament... pitched the complete game against Virginia Tech, facing 29 batters and holding the Hokies to eight hits...also tallied two strikeouts in the win... recorded another shutout in the championship game of the FIU Tournament, allowing eight hits with two strikeouts in 6.2 innings... recorded two earned runs against Morehead State in the Longwood Leadoff Classic... tallied five strikeouts in her second complete game of the season against Bucknell...compiled four strikeouts in just three innings against Long Beach State...hit a two-RBI single against Rutgers...earned the Panthers' sixth shutout victory of the season against Villanova...pitched the win in the second game against Akron, striking out six batters in five innings...posted her second career shut-out against Connecticut after striking out six batters and walking one...recorded her first career no-hitter, only the sixth time in Pitt history...against Providence, she registered her third shut out of the season....hit a two-RBI shot in the Notre Dame win, her 12th in the circle.

Zinger's Stats - Batting

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2007	0.143	26/19	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0-0	3	35	2	0.950
2008	0.178	50/49	118	4	21	4	0	0	15	25	0-0	2	32	2	0.944
Totals	0.176	76/68	125	4	22	4	0	0	16	25	0-0	5	67	4	0.947

***Pitching**

YR	ERA	G	GS	W	L	CG	SV	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
2007	3.33	26	18	6	13	9	1	0	120	133	75	57	25	94
2008	1.92	26	18	13	11	8	1	3	142	138	56	39	27	68
Totals	2.62	52	36	19	24	17	2	3	262	271	131	96	52	162

Freshmen



11 • Ashley Amistade • FR • OF • L/R • Washington, Pa. • Trinity

Amistade recorded her first run as a Panther in the Virginia Tech contest of the FIU Tournament...recorded a hit and scored one of Pitt's two runs in the championship game of the FIU Tournament...scored a run in the Panthers shutout victory over Longwood in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...scored two runs and stole two bases at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...has tallied three stolen bases on the year...recorded an RBI single in the Panthers' second game against Rutgers....threw a strike to the plate to hold off a DePaul scoring threat that led to a Panther win...scored two runs and a RBI against the Blue Demons.

Amistade's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2008	0.226	55/55	164	38	37	2	0	0	6	8	17-21	42	8	4	0.92
Totals	0.226	55/55	164	38	37	2	0	0	6	8	17-21	42	8	4	0.92



6 • Cory Berliner • FR • P • R/R • Fort Collins, Colo. • Rocky Mountain

Berliner made her debut for the Panthers in the FIU Tournament against Texas-Arlington, pitching all seven innings and allowing just one run off nine hits... pitched a two-hitter, as the Panthers upset No. 25 Missouri in game three of the FIU Tournament... led the game with three shutout innings, before giving up a single in the fourth inning, striking out five batters... recorded her first save of the season in the FIU contest when she entered the game in the bottom of the seventh striking out the final batter with two runners on base to record her ninth strikeout of the season..pitched three shutout innings and recorded a three-hitter with six strikeouts in seven innings against Longwood...allowed just four hits against Eastern Michigan, recording three shutout innings and eight strikeouts...pitched a total of 19.3 innings and tallied 14 strikeouts at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...earned her ninth win of the season against Rutgers, striking out six batters in seven innings...against Providence, recorded her third career shut-out...struck out 10 batters against Connecticut...tied the single-season wins record in her 15th victory of the year against St. John's and became the first-ever freshman to post more than 11 wins in her rookie season.

Berliner's Stats - Pitching

YR	ERA	G	GS	W	L	CG	SV	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
2008	2.02	35	31	16	12	24	3	5	201	194	89	58	51	148
Totals	2.02	35	31	16	12	24	3	5	201	194	89	58	51	148

**17 • Alicia Broudy • FR • 1B • L/L • Pittsburgh, Pa. • Baldwin**

Broudy scored her first run as a Panther in the FIU Tournament against Texas-Arlington... chipped in 13 putouts against Virginia Tech...tallied an RBI for the Panthers against Longwood in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...garnered 30 putouts during the UNLV Eller Media Classic...has started all of her 13 games as a Panther with 112 total putouts and 11 assists...tallied a two-RBI single in the second game against Akron...recorded an out against Connecticut.

Broudy's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2008	0.102	55/55	118	7	12	0	0	0	4	18	4-7	513	28	5	0.99
Totals	0.102	55/55	118	7	12	0	0	0	4	18	4-7	513	28	5	0.99

**19 • Mollie Illenberger • FR • C • R/R • Doylestown, Pa. • Central Bucks West**

Illenberger has appeared in three games her freshman season...she as garnered one hit and one RBI during her two appearances at the plate...against Connecticut, posted two RBI's.

Illenberger's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2008	0.294	17/2	17	1	5	1	0	0	5	0	0-0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0.294	17/2	17	1	5	1	0	0	5	0	0-0	0	0	0	0

**10 • Alyssa O'Connell • FR • P • R/R • Washington Twp., N.J. • Cherry Hill**

O'Connell has pitched 2.1 innings this season...curretnly holds a 1.000 fielding percentage...has given up only 5 hits this season...struck out two batters in the sixth inning to end the game against Akron...won in her first complete game of the season after giving up four hits in an 8-2 victory over Youngstown State.

O'Connell's Stats - Pitching

YR	ERA	G	GS	W	L	CG	SV	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
2008	1.7	5	3	1	0	1	0	0	12.1	10	5	3	8	11
Totals	1.7	5	3	1	0	1	0	0	3.1	10	5	3	8	11

**22 • Reba Tutt • FR • OF • R/R • Culpeper Va. • Highland**

Tutt began the game against Texas-Arlington posting a lead-off double for the Panthers in the FIU Tournament...recorded her first Pitt run when she crossed home plate after Texas-Arlington's catcher muffed the ball...scored one of Pitt's two runs in the championship game of the FIU Tournament...hit a double and stole third base to score against Longwood in the Longwood Leadoff Classic...tallied five hits, two runs, one RBI and one stolen base at the UNLV Eller Media Classic...against Providence, caught a fly ball, leaving two Friars on base...hit a three-run homer against Connecticut to end a potential shut out...recorded her second home run of the season...sole her team- and league-leading 24th base of the season in the secon SJU contest; that steal tied Robin Johnston's 2000 mark, which ranks second overall in single-season records.

Tutt's Stats

YR	BA	G/GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB-A	PO	A	E	PCT
2008	0.28	55/55	168	37	47	7	2	4	16	22	26-35	54	3	5	.919
Totals	0.28	55/41	168	37	47	7	2	4	16	22	26-35	54	3	5	0.919