



Dear Friends of Pitt Wrestling,

The Pittsburgh Wrestling Club announces with great enthusiasm the new coaching staff for the University of Pittsburgh Wrestling team. Head Coach Keith Gavin returns to lead the panthers. Keith is a 2008 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. He was the NCAA champion at 174 pound weight class in 2008 and the runner up in 2007. He then proceeded to have tremendous success on the international level wrestling for team USA and was a world team member in 2013. He is joined by assistant coaches Jordan Leen and Drew Headlee. Coach Leen won the 2008 NCAA championship at 157 pounds while wrestling for Cornell. He was a three time all American during his career. He has been an assistant coach at UVA for the past 6 year and prior to this, was on staff at Duke. Coach Headlee remains at Pitt after being part of the program for the past 3 seasons. He is a 2008 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where he was an All American. He was instrumental in the late success the panthers had on the mat in 2017 serving as co-interim head coach.

There will be significant changes to the Pittsburgh Wrestling Club moving forward. The focus will be to move away from the youth and high school club activities 2 to 3 days per week, and to the development of the Pittsburgh Olympic Regional Training Center. Every top D1 college wrestling program has a Regional Training Center. The RTC model has been shown to be incredibly effective and there are 3 main reasons why having an RTC is crucial to having a successful wrestling program. A regional training center will improve recruiting, development of our student athletes, and it will provide us a way to keep Pitt guys who have Olympic aspirations. Below are details on how this will help us:

Recruiting: The very best high school prospects in the country have Olympic goals and want to attend a University that can help them achieve those goals. Pitt has good academics and the wrestling program has produced national champions in the past, but a big reason why Pitt wrestling has missed out on the top recruits in recent years is because we have not had an effective regional training center. To have an RTC we need to have post graduate resident athletes training with us (the NCAA allows the RTC resident athletes to train with our college guys during our practices), and we need to have an RTC coach. If we can accomplish building an RTC we can then sell recruits on the fact that they will have the resources to accomplish ALL of their goals and they will have world class training partners/coaching.

Development of our current student athletes: Our RTC resident athletes will be able to wrestle and train with our student athletes. This will push our student athletes and aide in their skill development as wrestlers. The biggest advantage of RTC athletes training amongst our student athletes is that it raises the expectation of the program. It is one thing to be in a wrestling room where guys are trying to win a NCAA title but it is another thing to be in a wrestling room where there are guys trying to win World/Olympic titles. Over the years the RTC model has be proven to be an incredibly effective tool in developing the collegiate wrestlers.

Retaining Pitt grads who have Olympic aspirations: The RTC will provide a way for us to keep our post grads who have international goals at Pitt. We don't want our Pitt wrestlers to have to find a new place to train after graduation if they want to continue to compete, we want them to be able to train at Pitt with our RTC and show our student athletes/recruits that Pitt is a place where you can train to be an Olympic Champion. When Coach Gavin graduated from Pitt he had just won an NCAA championship. He wanted to make the US World/Olympic team and be an Olympic Champion. He wanted to chase this dream while training at Pitt but that was not an option because at the time Pitt wrestling did not have the necessary resources. He ended up moving to Columbus, Ohio, and training at Ohio State with the Ohio Regional Training Center. As part of the Ohio RTC he made the US World team along with several other Ohio RTC members and subsequently Ohio State University won the NCAA wrestling Championships. He had the opportunity



to see just how big of an impact having an RTC can make on a collegiate wrestling program and we know that the same can happen at Pitt.

We have already started the growth of the RTC. We have hired Coner Youtsey, a recent graduate of Michigan University. He was a two time All American and will serve as volunteer assistant coach to help with the Pitt team, Pittsburgh Regional Training centers activities, and Pittsburgh Wrestling Club clinic and camp youth activities. We have our first resident athlete for the Pittsburgh Regional Training Center. Samat Nadyrbek Uulu is a world class wrestler who originally hails from Kyrgyzstan. He is the number one wrestler at his weight class in Kyrgyzstan, and has medaled in several international freestyle competitions. He moved to Pittsburgh and will be training at the RTC. The goal is continued growth with the hope of having six sponsored athletes, one in each Olympic weight class, by the 2020 Olympic games. Achieving this goal will yield tremendous benefits to our program. But this goal will take money. The large successful Olympic regional training centers in the country operate on an annual budget of 300K to 500K per year. We will need to be in this range to achieve our goals. This is 5 to 10 times the prior operating budget of the Pittsburgh Wrestling Club. Even in year one of the RTC our operating budget will be 150K. We need your help. We need donations from our alumni and friends of Pitt wrestling to make this happen. Donated funds will go directly to build the RTC and go directly to supporting our student athletes and local high school athletes that are eligible to train in the RTC. The PWC is a 501c3 charitable organization so all donations are eligible for federal and state income tax deductions. Here is how to donate:

Either send a check payable to the Pittsburgh Wrestling Club c/o Dr. Armando Scullo, 30 Wood Acres Lane, Grove City, PA 16127 or go to their website: www.pittsburghwrestlingclub.com.

If you have any questions about the club, RTC, fund raising events or Pitt Wrestling and our future, please contact the members of the coaching staff, or PWC board members listed below. Thank you for your support and Hail To Pitt.



Donation Form – Tax Receipt

TAX ID #36-4790834

PO Box 7583

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of your generous contribution to the PAWC Corporation. The contribution becomes the property of the corporation and will be offered as part of our yearly budget. Proceeds from all fundraising events and donations will be used to support our mission and goals. Since the PAWC Corporation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contribution is deductible for Federal and State Income Tax purposes. Internal Revenue Service Publication 561 gives information and guidelines on appraisal of donated property; this publication is available online at www.irs.gov. * Donate at www.pittsburghwrestlingclub.com or fill out the form below and make a copy for your records.*

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