



SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
11/11	Shepherd	W, 91-68
11/12	California (Pa.)	W, 94-85
11/16	Pitt-Johnstown	7:00 PM
11/19	@ Alderson Broaddus	4:00 PM
11/22	Notre Dame (Ohio)	7:30 PM
11/30	West Virginia Wesleyan	7:30 PM
12/3	@ Davis & Elkins	4:00 PM
12/7	@ Charleston	7:30 PM
12/10	West Virginia State	7:30 PM
12/17	Lubbock Christian (in Las Vegas)	8:30 PM
12/18	Missouri S&T (in Las Vegas)	11:00 PM
12/31	@ Bowie State	2:00 PM
1/4	@ Concord	7:30 PM
1/7	Glenville State	4:00 PM
1/11	Frostburg State	7:30 PM
1/14	@ Fairmont State	4:00 PM
1/18	Alderson Broaddus	7:30 PM
1/21	@ Wheeling	4:00 PM
1/25	Davis & Elkins	7:30 PM
1/28	@ West Virginia Wesleyan	4:00 PM
2/1	@ West Virginia State	7:30 PM
2/4	Charleston	4:00 PM
2/8	@ Glenville State	7:30 PM
2/11	Concord	4:00 PM
2/15	@ Frostburg State	7:30 PM
2/18	Fairmont State	4:00 PM
2/22	@ Notre Dame (Ohio)	7:30 PM
2/25	Wheeling	4:00 PM

DIGITAL PROGRAM



#8 West Liberty Hilltoppers (2-0) vs. Pitt-Johnstown (2-0)

Game 3 • November 16, 2022 • 7:00 pm

West Liberty, W.Va. • ASRC

THE TEAMS

#8 West Liberty Hilltoppers



Record (MEC).....2-0 (0-0)
 Streak.....W2
 Last Game..... 11/12 vs. California (Pa.) (W, 94-85)
 Next Game..... 11/19 at Alderson Broaddus (4 pm)
 Head Coach.....Ben Howlett (6th season)

Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cats



Record (PSAC).....2-0 (0-0)
 Streak.....W2
 Last Game..... 11/12 vs. Charleston (W, 72-65)
 Next Game.....11/21 at Lynn (Fla.) (7 pm)
 Head Coach.....Bob Rukavina (34th season)

OPENING TIP

NATIONALLY RANKED HILLTOPPERS

- West Liberty enters the season ranked #8 in Division II by the National Association of Basketball Coaches. After the 2-0 start, WLU moved up from 7th in the D2SIDA National Media Poll to a tie for 6th this week.
- West Liberty swept the awards in the Mountain East Conference last season, winning its 5th straight regular season title and 3rd tournament title. WLU is the top team in the MEC Preseason Poll for the 5th straight season.

A LOOK AT THE 2022-23 SQUAD

- The 2022-23 Hilltoppers feature seven returners and seven newcomers, with four of the seven being transfers.
- Bryce Butler leads the returners after being named an NCAA D2 All-American, along with Atlantic Region Player of the Year and MEC Player of the Year. Butler averaged 18.1 points and 7.5 rebounds per game a year ago.
- Malik McKinney, Zach Rasile, Christian Montague, & Ben Sarson all averaged over 7 points per game last season.
- Transfers Stephen Cannaday, Alek West, Michael Sampson, and Chaz Hinds all are expected to see time for WLU.

BUTLER MEC PLAYER OF THE WEEK

- Bryce Butler netted back-to-back 30-point games on opening weekend to earn the first Mountain East Conference Player of the Week of the 2022-23 season. Butler posted a 30-point, 10-rebound double-double in game one versus Shepherd, then followed it with 35 points and nine boards against Cal (Pa.) the next night.

LAST TIME OUT FOR WLU

- West Liberty went 2-0 on opening weekend inside the ASRC, capped off with a 94-85 win over Cal (Pa.). The Hilltoppers fended off a late comeback that brought the WLU lead from 18-points down to one with under 3:00 to play. Zach Rasile and Christian Montague hit back-to-back three pointers to halt the Vulcan comeback effort.

SCOUTING THE MOUNTAIN CATS

- Pitt-Johnstown got off to a 2-0 start with a 73-51 win over Wesleyan and 72-65 victory over Charleston last weekend in its home tip-off tournament.
- UPJ is coming off back-to-back-20-win seasons, going 21-9 in 2021-22, with 4 four starters and 7 of the team's top-8 contributors returning led by 6-7 senior forward John Paul Kromka, who was named an NABC All-American and has won three PSAC West Defensive Player of the Year awards. Kromka paced the offense averaging 18.5 points and tied Jared Jakubick, a 6-4 senior guard, at 6.0 rebounds a game on opening weekend.

ROSTERS

#8 West Liberty Hilltoppers

No.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL (Prev.)
1	Malik McKinney	G	6-3	180	Sr.	Bowie, Md. / Indian Creek (Seton Hill)
2	Bryce Butler	G	6-5	200	Jr.	Latrobe, Pa. / Greater Latrobe
3	Finley Woodward	F	6-7	215	Fr.	Bristol, England / Spire Academy
4	Christian Montague	G	6-1	180	Jr.	Dayton, Ohio / Chaminade-Julienne (Walsh)
5	Stephen Cannady	G	6-1	165	Gr.	Bowie, Md. / St. Vincent Pallotti (Mercyhurst)
10	Dante Spadafora	G	6-0	160	R-Fr.	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Our Lady of Sacred Heart
11	Grant Barnhart	G	6-3	180	Fr.	St. Mary's, W.Va. / St. Mary's
12	Michael Sampson	F	6-4	185	Jr.	Houston, Texas / Klein (Notre Dame Ohio)
14	Austin Webb	G	6-3	175	So.	South Point, Ohio / South Point
20	Vidan Dronjak	F	6-6	195	Fr.	Beograd, Serbia / Electrotechnical Zemun
22	Chaz Hinds	F	6-8	220	Jr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Southport (Olney Central CC)
23	Alek West	G	6-4	200	Jr.	Sylvania, Ohio / Northview (Ohio Dominican)
24	Ben Sarson	F	6-6	205	So.	Pittsburgh, Pa. / Central Catholic
25	Zach Rasile	G	6-1	175	So.	McDonald, Ohio / McDonald

Head Coach: Ben Howlett (6th season)

Assistant Coaches: Mike Lamberti, Dr. Aaron Huffman, Connor Harr

Stats Snapshot

Team

Scoring

Points/Game.....92.5

Margin.....+16.0

Shooting

Field Goal %.....46.4

3-Point %.....29.6

Free Throw %.....77.4

Rebounding

Rebounds/Game.....39.5

Offensive/Game.....13

Margin.....+6.5

Turnovers

Forced/Game.....21.0

Committed/Game.....15.0

Assist-TO-Ratio.....1.7

Leaders

Points.....Butler (32.5)

Rebounds.....Butler (9.5)

Assists.....Montague (5.0)

Steals.....West (3.5)

Pitt-Johnstown Mountain Cats

No.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	CL.	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL (Prev.)
0	Daunte Allegretto	G	5-9	150	Jr.	Ridgway, PA / Ridgway Area
1	Andy Zuchelli	G	6-2	175	So.	Jennerstown, PA / North Star
2	Joe Batt	G	6-3	180	Sr.	Greenville, PA / Greenville
4	Andrew Shull	G	6-0	190	R-Fr.	Milton, W.VA / Chapmanville Regional
5	Caiden Landis	F	6-7	210	Sr.	Logan, Ohio / Logan
10	Drew Magestro	G	6-3	185	R-Sr.	Sharon, PA / Kennedy Catholic
15	Tyler Bilinsky	G	5-11	175	R-Fr.	Irwin, PA / Norwin
20	Jacob Shuagis	G	6-3	180	Sr.	Cresson, PA / Penn Cambria
21	Will Kromka	G	6-3	195	Fr.	Monroeville, PA / Gateway
23	Ryan Smith	G	6-3	190	So.	Harrisburg, PA / Central Dauphin
24	John Paul Kromka	F	6-7	210	Sr.	Monroeville, PA / Gateway
31	Jared Jakubick	G	6-4	200	Sr.	Akron, Ohio / Mansfield-St. Peter's
32	Grant Timmerman	F	6-3	200	So.	Pittsburgh, PA / North Allegheny
45	Elijah Sechler	G	6-0	165	R-Fr.	Berlin, PA / Berlin Brothersvalley
50	Nick Watts	G	6-7	205	Fr.	Northport, N.Y. / Northport
	Colin Cote	F	6-6	210	Rs.	Pittsburgh, PA / Peters Township

Head Coach: Bob Rukavina (34th season)

Assistant Coaches: Patrick Grubbs, John Sanow

Stats Snapshot

Team

Scoring

Points/Game.....72.5

Margin.....+14.5

Shooting

Field Goal %.....50.0

3-Point %.....41.5

Free Throw %.....70.0

Rebounding

Rebounds/Game.....36.0

Offensive/Game.....6

Margin.....+1.5

Turnovers

Forced/Game.....12.5

Committed/Game.....10.0

Assist-TO-Ratio.....2.2

Leaders

Points.....Kromka (18.5)

Reb.....Two Tied (6.0)

Assists.....Batt (5.5)

Steals.....Two Tied (1.5)



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