

2023 MERCYHURST MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mercyhurst Lakers

VS

Central Oklahoma Bronchos



Nov. 4

George W. Jenkins Field House | Lakeland, Fl.
3:30 p.m.

0-0 Overall
0-0 PSAC

0-0 Overall
0-0-0 MIAA



BY THE NUMBERS (2022-23)

Lakers	Stat Category	Bronchos
25-6 (18-4)	Record (Conf.)	26-6 (18-4)
Michael Bradley (14.9)	Points Per Game Leader	Jaden Wells (16.5)
Pipe Ajayi (6.9)	Rebounds Per Game Leader	Camryn Givens (6.0)
Michael Bradley (4.3)	Assists Per Game Leader	Callon Hayden (4.6)
Pipe Ajayi (1.5)	Blocks Per Game Leader	Luke Hassl (1.3)
Nick Lang (1.6)	Steals Per Game Leader	Curtis Haywood (1.3)
Michael Bradley (31.4)	Minutes Per Game Leader	Curtis Haywood (32.0)
Pipe Ajayi (58.3)	Field Goal % Leader	Luke Hassl (60.0)
Nick Lang (43.2)	Three-Point % Leader	Jaden Wells (42.6)
Nick Lang (88.3)	Free Throw % Leader	Curtis Haywood (86.3)
Pipe Ajayi (2.8)	Fouls Per Game Leader	Curtis Haywood (2.6)

AT A GLANCE

A Look Back

Mercyhurst comes off a season in which they finished 25-6, going 18-4 in PSAC play for the second-straight season the Lakers had won 25 or more games and look to do so for a third time for the first time under Head Coach Gary Manchel. The team played their way deep into the post season as they competed in the PSAC Tournament Championship while making it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament, hoping for similar success this time around.

Familiar Faces

The Lakers return seven players from last season's roster with Jeff Planutis and Aidan Reichert brining back the most experience. Planutis comes off a season in which he was named to the PSAC West First Team after averaging 14.7 points per game on a 46.6/42.9/86.6 shooting split. Reichert primarily came off of the bench, scoring 9.3 points per game while being third on the team in rebounds per game, hoping to take another step forward.

Scouting Central Oklahoma

The Bronchos come off a very solid season, going 26-6 in 2022-23 while finishing with an 18-4 record in the MIAA, falling short in their conference tournament finale and being beaten in the opening round of the national tournament. Central Oklahoma brings several new faces to their team this season, but with one key returner in Jaden Wells. Wells was the team's leading scorer, averaging 16.5 on a 42.6% clip from deep in his sophomore season, making him someone the Lakers have to focus on.

Scouting the Colorado School of Mines

The Drediggers were very successful in 2022-23 with the team finishing with a 26-6 record, going 18-4 in the RMAC on their way to a loss in the conference championship along with a first round exit in the national tournament. Colorado School of Mines will look to rebuild their offense this season as their top three scorers are all gone with Sam Beskind as the top returner, averaging 9.3 points per game in 2022-23.

Next Game

Mercyhurst comes closer to home for their next set of games as they travel to Clarion, Pa. On Friday, November 10th to see Frostburg State before returning to Waldo S. Tippin Gymnasium on Saturday for a contest with Bluefield State with top-off set for 4:00 p.m.

2023-24 MERCYHURST SCHEDULE

November

4 v Central Oklahoma	3:30 PM
5 v Colorado School of Mines	11:00 AM
10 v Frostburg State	7:00 PM
11 v Bluefield State	4:00 PM
15 v Daemen	7:30 PM
18 v Roberts Wesleyan	4:00 PM
19 v D'Youville	2:00 PM

December

1 v East Stroudsburg*	5:00 PM
2 v Kutztown*	3:00 PM
9 v Fredonia	2:00 PM
18 v West Chester*	7:30 PM
19 v Millersville*	3:00 PM
30 v Shepherd*	3:30 PM

January

3 v Bloomsburg*	3:00 PM
6 v Pitt-Johnstown*	3:00 PM
10 v Indiana (Pa.)*	7:30 PM
17 v Edinboro*	7:30 PM
20 v Seton Hill *	3:00 PM
24 v Gannon*	7:30 PM
27 v California (Pa.)*	3:00 PM
29 v Clarion*	7:30 PM
31 v Slippery Rock*	7:30 PM

February

3 v Pitt-Johnstown*	3:00 PM
7 v Indiana (Pa.)*	7:30 PM
14 v Edinboro*	7:30 PM
17 v Seton Hill*	3:00 PM
21 v Gannon *	7:30 PM
24 v California*	3:00 PM
28 v Clarion*	7:30 PM

March

2 v Slippery Rock*	3:00 PM
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Home Games BOLD

*PSAC Contests

LAKER STAT LEADERS (2022-23)



POINTS PER GAME LEADERS

#22 Michael Bradley
2022-23: 14.9, 46.5 FG%/37.3 3P%/86.3 FT%

#31 Jeff Planutis
2022-23: 14.7, 46.6 FG%/42.9 3P%/86.6 FT%

#12 Nick Lang
2022-23: 12.4, 48.8 FG%/43.2 3P%/88.3 FT%



REBOUNDS PER GAME LEADERS

#23 Pipe Ajayi
2022-23: 6.9 TOT, 4.1 DEF, 2.9 OFF

#12 Nick Lang
2022-23: 6.0 TOT, 4.1 DEF, 1.9 OFF

#32 Aidan Reichert
2022-23: 4.4 TOT, 2.7 DEF, 1.7 OFF



ASSISTS PER GAME LEADERS

#22 Michael Bradley
2022-23: 4.3 AST/G

#12 Nick Lang
2022-23: 3.5 AST/G

#0 MiyKah McIntosh
2022-23: 2.7 AST/G



STEALS PER GAME LEADERS

#12 Nick Lang
2022-23: 1.6 STL/G

#0 MiyKah McIntosh
2022-23: 1.5 STL/G

#22 Michael Bradley
2022-23: 1.2 STL/G



BLOCKS PER GAME LEADERS

#23 Pipe Ajayi
2022-23: 1.5 BLK/G

#31 Jeff Planutis
2022-23: 0.6 BLK/G

#32 Aidan Reichert
2022-23: 0.6 BLK/G

2023 NUMERICAL ROSTER

ROSTER INFO

#	Name	Yr.	Pos.	Ht.	Hometown
1	Sean Lang	Sr.	G	6'3"	New Market, Md.
2	Dasan Doucet	So.	G	6'4"	Dayon, Oh.
3	Alexander Parks	Fr.	G	5'7"	Cincinnati, Oh.
4	Jonathan Anderson	Fr.	G	6'0"	New Castle, Pa.
5	Adam Bilinsky	Fr.	G	6'3"	North Huntingdon, Pa.
10	Christian Gamble	So.	G	6'1"	Silver Springs, Md.
11	Sean Fullerton	So.	G	6'3"	Danbury, Ct.
15	Tim Barton	Fr.	F	6'5"	Waldorf, D.C.
21	Max Jusianiec	So.	F	6'7"	Alfred, N.Y.
23	Luke Triggs	So.	F	6'7"	Gainesville, Va.
31	Jeff Planutis	Gr.	G	6'6"	Hazleton, Pa.
32	Aidan Reichert	Jr.	F	6'4"	Jackson Center, Oh.
34	James Thomas	So.	F	6'6"	Sharpsville, Pa.

Coaches

Head Coach	Gary Manchel
Assistant Coach	Andy Hoying
Assistant Coach	Tom O'Shea
Graduate Assistant	Chance Wright
Student Manager	John Krahe
Student Manager	Louisa Miguez

PRONUNCIATIONS

- 2 - Dasan Doo-set
- 5 - Adam Bill-in-skee
- 21 - Max Joo-see-ahn-ick
- 31 - Jeff Plan-oo-tiss

CLASS BREAKDOWN

Grad Students.....	1
Seniors.....	1
Juniors.....	1
Sophomores.....	6
Freshmen.....	4

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach.....	Gary Manchel
Assistant Coach.....	Andy Hoying
Assistant Coach.....	Tom O'Shea
Graduate Assistant.....	Chance Wright
Student Manager.....	John Krahe
Student Manager.....	Louisa Miguez

MERCYHURST FACTS

Location.....	Erie, Pennsylvania
Enrollment.....	3,000
Founded.....	1828
President.....	Dr. Kathleen Detz
Assistant Vice President for Athletics.....	Joe Spano
Colors.....	Navy Blue, Forest Green, White
Conference.....	Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
Home Facility.....	Owen McCormick Court
Square Footage.....	12,000
Capacity.....	1,000
Website.....	hursthletics.com
Twitter.....	@HurstHob
Instagram.....	@hursthob
Home Live Video.....	PSAC Digital Network



2022-23 PHOTO ROSTER

#1 SEAN LANG



G / SR. / NEW MARKET, MD.

#2 DASAN DOUCET



G / SO. / DAYTON, OH.

#3 ALEXANDER PARKS



G / FR. / CINCINNATI, OH.

#4 JONATHAN ANDERSON



G / FR. / NEW CASTLE, PA.

#5 ADAM BILINSKY



G / FR. / NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA.

#10 CHRISTIAN GAMBLE



G / SO. / SILVER SPRINGS, MD.

#11 SEAN FULLERTON



G / SO. / DANBURY, CT.

#15 TIM BARTON



F / FR. / WALDORF, D.C.

#21 MAX JUSIANIEC



F / SO. / ALFRED, N.Y.

#23 LUKE TRIGGS



F / SO. / GAINESVILLE, VA.

#31 JEFF PLANUTIS



G / GR. / HAZLETON, PA.

#32 AIDAN REICHERT



F / JR. / JACKSON CENTER, OH.

#34 JAMES THOMAS



F / FR. / SHARPSVILLE, PA.

HC GARY MANCHEL



TWENTY-FIRST SEASON

AC ANDY HOYING



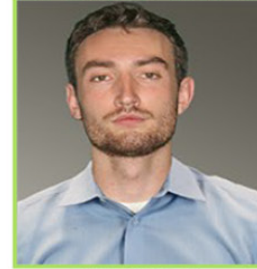
THIRD SEASON

AC TOM O'SHEA



THIRD SEASON

GA CHANCE WRIGHT



FIRST SEASON

2023-24 ROSTER OVERVIEW

Talent Incoming

Mercyhurst welcomes plenty of new talent to the roster with six newcomers. Of that group, four are freshmen with two transfers. Max Jusianiec is one of the two transfers, hailing from Alfred, N.Y. and spending his freshman season at the College of Saint Rose where he averaged 11 points on 43.1% from the floor, 38.5% from three, and 88.9% from the free throw line, looking to make a similar impact in his new home.

Key Returners

The Lakers bring back seven players from the 2022-23 roster with that group being comprised of one grad student, one senior, one junior, and four sophomores. Jeff Plantuis enters as the team's top returner as he was second in scoring a season ago, averaging 14.7 points per game on a 46.4/42.9/86/6 shooting split. The other major familiar face for the Lakers is Aiden Reichert who played the role of sixth man in 2022-23 as he averaged 9.3 points per game on a 55.2% shooting clip while finishing third in rebounds per game.

Manchel Returns for Year 21

Head Coach Gary Manchel returns for another year in Erie, his 21st as the head coach of the Lakers. Manchel has won 358 games over his tenure at Mercyhurst and helped lead the Lakers to back-to-back seasons of 25 or more wins for the first time in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 seasons. Overall, Manchel has amassed 491 wins in his career and looks to reach number 500 this season, looking for his sixth-straight winning season.

2023 PSAC WEST WEEKLY AWARDS

WEEK	OFFENSE	DEFENSE
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

PSAC STANDINGS 2022-23

INDIANA (PA.)	1ST
MERCYHURST	2ND
PITT-JOHNSTOWN	3RD
CALIFORNIA (PA.)	4TH
SETON HILL	5TH
SLIPPERY ROCK	6TH
EDINBORO	7TH
GANNON	8TH
CLARION	9TH

2023 PSAC PRESEASON POLL

INDIANA (PA.)	1ST
CALIFORNIA (PA.)	2ND
MERCYHURST	3RD
SLIPPERY ROCK	4TH
PITT-JOHNSTOWN	5TH
SETON HILL	6TH
GANNON	7TH
CLARION	8TH
EDINBORO	9TH

ABOUT THE PSAC

Originating in 1951 to administer and promote intercollegiate athletics, the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference has evolved into one of the NCAA's most heralded conferences.

The first major advancement came in 1977, when based on a growing interest, the league reorganized to provide a structure for its women's programs. Only three years later, lacking a standard competitive division, the league voted to reclassify the entire conference to NCAA Division II.

In a groundbreaking move for the league, Shepherd University joined the PSAC in 2019-20, expanding its membership to 18 institutions. Located in northeast West Virginia, Shepherd became the PSAC's first full-time member outside of the Commonwealth. Now with 18 members, the PSAC is the largest conference in Division II and offers championship opportunities in 23 sports, which ranks fourth among Division II Conferences.

Highly competitive on a regional and national level, PSAC schools annually combine to send nearly one-third of its teams into NCAA postseason play. Ultimately, the membership's success has yielded 58 NCAA team and 305 individual title winners.

While proud of its athletic accomplishments, the league also has evolved into one of Division II's finest from an academic standpoint. In 2022-23, 3,838 of the league's student-athletes were honored as "Scholar-Athletes" for maintaining a grade-point average of 3.25 or better. That total represents a number that is four times higher than when PSAC Scholar-Athletes were first recognized in the mid-1990s.

PSAC membership has undergone significant changes over the last 20 years. In addition to adding Shepherd, the conference experienced expansion on two other recent occasions. Gannon and Mercyhurst Universities joined the league in 2008 while the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown and Seton Hill University became members in 2013.

Although all 18 current institutions are members of Division II, five league schools also compete at the Division I level in select sports. PSAC schools enroll over 110,000 students and claim approximately one million alumni, including over 560,000 who reside in Pennsylvania.

The PSAC is governed by the presidents of the 18 member institutions. It employs a commissioner, two associate commissioners, and a director of communications at its headquarters in Lock Haven, Pa.

LAST TIME IT HAPPENED

Overtime Win.....	3/16/19, Fairmont St., 63-60
Overtime Loss.....	1/5/19, Slippery Rock, 92-91
Lakers Score 100.....	2/26/23, Gannon 105-70
Opponent Scores 100.....	2/22/03, Findlay, 106-99 (3OT)
Scored 30 Points.....	1/25/23, Michael Bradley, 31
Recorded 15 Rebounds.....	3/16/19, Patrick Smith, 18
Double-Double.....	3/1/23, Nick Lang, 17 pts, 14 rebs
Made Five Threes.....	2/23/22, Steve Cannady, 6/11
Made 10 Free Throws.....	2/26/22, Steve Cannady, 12-12

ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Jesse Hall

Assistant Director of Athletic Communications

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Interview Requests

To request an interview with Coach Manchel or players throughout the week, please contact Jesse Hall to arrange a mutually agreed upon time for the interview.



COACH GARY MANCHEL



Gary Manchel, the eighth head coach in the history of the men's basketball program, enters his 21st season as the Lakers' head man in 2023-24.

Manchel has revitalized the Laker program and continues to build on his impressive resume that includes 481 career wins.

The Lakers have been a fixture at the NCAA tournament in recent memory making appearances in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23.

Mercyhurst won 25 or more games for the first time in the program's history in back-to-back years under Manchel's direction with 25 in both 2021-22 and 2022-23, going 25-6 in his 20th season. The Lakers won nine of their first 10 games, with the average margin of victory being 21.7 points per game, showing themselves to be dominant from the word go. Their efficiency from deep was some of the best in the PSAC with a mark of 38.1 while their defense was once again dominant, allowing only 62.5 points for the 10th fewest in the country.

In 2021-22 the Lakers once again made the NCAA Tournament as they played a full schedule once again. The Lakers went 25-7 while also going 4-0 vs Gannon and Edinboro. After earning a first round bye, the Lakers defeated UPU at home in the second round of the PSAC Tournament. Despite falling in the PSAC semifinals to Millersville, the Lakers got their revenge as they knocked Millersville out of the NCAA Tournament a week later. The Lakers run came to an end against IUP in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

In 2014-15, the Lakers finished 20-7 overall, and advanced to its first NCAA Tournament in school history.

The Lakers finished second last season in the PSAC Western Division, as Mercyhurst, then, outperformed their predicted preseason finish for a sixth straight season. In 2013-14, the Lakers were projected third.

Mercyhurst also went on to defeat national runner-up Indiana (Pa.) twice during the regular season, once at the Kovalchick Center when the Crimson Hawks were ranked fifth in the country. Mercyhurst was the only team in the country to beat IUP in each of the last six seasons. (Includes win at home during 2015-16 season.)

Manchel was honored as the PSAC Western Division Coach of the Year for the second time in 14-15. He was awarded the honor first back in the 2010-11.

Manchel also spent nine years as head coach at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, compiling a 191-125 record during his stay. He enjoyed three 20-win seasons over his last five years, including a 45-17 mark during the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 seasons combined.

Manchel was named Northeast-10 Coach of the Year after leading the 2000-01 River Hawks to a 24-7 record that included an appearance in the league's championship game and a berth in the NCAA Division II Tournament where the squad advanced into the second round.

Two times during his stay at UMass Lowell his squads reached the finals of the ECAC Division II Championships. His 1999-00 team posted a 21-10 record and finished as the runner-up, and in 1996-97, he led UMass Lowell to a 20-10 mark and an ECAC Division II Championship.

Before UMass Lowell, Manchel served as an assistant coach at Yale from 1987-92. During his time at Yale, he was a part of three teams that finished in the top ten in scoring defense in all of Division I. In 1989-90 the Bulldogs finished seventh nationally, while the following year they finished third. In 1991-92, coach Manchel was part of a staff that finished 10th in the country.

Manchel began his coaching career at Slippery Rock, where he served as a graduate assistant for two seasons.

A native of Burlington, Vt., Manchel is a 1985 graduate of the University of Vermont, where he lettered three years for the Catamounts.

Manchel holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Vermont and a Master's degree in Education (Sports Administration) from Slippery Rock.

CAREER RECORD

YEAR	TEAM	OVERALL	CONF.	YEAR	TEAM	OVERALL	CONF.
1992-93	UM Lowell	13-15		2012-13	Mercyhurst	16-13	12-10
1993-94	UM Lowell	10-18		2013-14	Mercyhurst	17-12	11-5
1994-95	UM Lowell	16-11		2014-15	Mercyhurst	20-9	17-5
1995-96	UM Lowell	9-17		2015-16	Mercyhurst	22-9	15-7
1996-97	UM Lowell	20-10		2016-17	Mercyhurst	14-14	11-11
1997-98	UM Lowell	6-21		2017-18	Mercyhurst	13-14	10-12
1998-99	UM Lowell	12-16		2018-19	Mercyhurst	26-8	15-6
1999-00	UM Lowell	21-10		2019-20	Mercyhurst	20-8	17-5
2000-01	UM Lowell	24-7		2020-21	Mercyhurst	12-1	
2003-04	Mercyhurst	16-12	10-7	2021-22	Mercyhurst	25-7	17-5
2004-05	Mercyhurst	8-19	2-15	2022-23	Mercyhurst	25-6	18-4
2005-06	Mercyhurst	19-10	9-8				
2006-7	Mercyhurst	20-11	9-8				
2007-08	Mercyhurst	15-13	9-8				
2008-09	Mercyhurst	16-11	4-10				
2009-10	Mercyhurst	18-10	8-6				
2010-11	Mercyhurst	20-7	11-3				
2011-12	Mercyhurst	18-10	15-7				



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