

Club Profile

by Mary S. Gilbert

Jeff Long— a Pittsburgh Panther powerhouse.



Having been a student athlete as well as a coach, Jeff Long feels a special affinity for both in his role as director of athletics at the University of Pittsburgh.

Long arrived at Pitt last June from the University of Oklahoma with a stellar resume in collegiate athletics that included stints at eight Division 1 institutions—University of Michigan, Eastern Kentucky University, Virginia Tech, Rice University, Duke University, North Carolina State University and Miami University round out the list—and in many high-profile conferences, including the Big 12, Big Ten and ACC. Over the years he has served as athletic director, associate director, assistant director, coach and graduate assistant coach, plus he brings his own experience of having earned seven varsity letters in football and baseball from Ohio Wesleyan University.

"I'm a product of being a student athlete and proud of it," Long proclaimed. "What I learned on the field and with my teammates I use daily. What energizes and inspires me is working with student athletes. I learn from them every day. To see them arrive as freshmen and their first time away from home, and then see them grow socially, academically and athletically and become prosperous and successful in life, well that's what keeps me pumped up. Their commitment to succeed will carry throughout their lives. I would look for student athletes as an employer because they're disciplined and they've had to manage their time. Athletics teach you many life lessons, including commitment, teamwork and pride.

"And my experience as a coach helps me understand what coaches do daily, the challenges of recruiting and helping get their teams ready to play."

"I truly love and enjoy what I do," Long added.

According to Long, collegiate athletics transcend just the people directly involved and encompass the entire university.

"Athletics are very important to the student body," he noted. "They're a unifying force, and everyone—students, faculty, staff and administration—can rally around them and be proud of them. We should strive to inspire academics, and academics should strive to inspire athletics. There's a great pride when the two come together, and it propels the university forward. Our strength begins with the university."

Already a standout athletics program with a current tally of 19 intercollegiate sports and 450 student athletes, he has strategic plans for the Pittsburgh Panthers to achieve even greater recognition and accomplishments.

"First, I want to continue the work done with our revenue producing sports of football and men's basketball," he enumerated. "Our facilities have let us compete at the highest level, and I want to continue the climb. Second, I want to help build the women's basketball program. And third, I want to build our Olympic sports in general. We need more resources. I want us to be known as a total athletic program.

"I want us to be the best and compete at the highest levels of conference and national levels. That doesn't mean we'll

win everything, but it does mean we'll compete and try."

Long has personal goals to effect change on a national level as well. At the top of his list is being part of the NCAA championship committee to select the 64 teams for the basketball championship, becoming involved with the National Association of Collegiate Athletic Directors and serving on an NCAA committee.

Closer to home, Long credits the influence of Coach John Majors in his decision to join the PAA. Although he has access to the fitness facilities at the Petersen Events Center, he enjoys the social aspect of membership and its convenience, and his two daughters bowl.

Even in his personal life, though, ath-

letics take center stage. A sometimes fly fisherman and golfer, he calls himself a closet NASCAR fan, cheering on any one who drives a General Motors car because his father worked for GM.

In a nod to his love of baseball, Long will take center stage at the Oakland As vs. San Francisco Giants game on June 27 when he throws out the first pitch. He keeps several baseballs in his office to warm up.

"The Oakland manager is a Pitt graduate," he explained. "I told him that I want it to be a real pitch. I want to be up on the rubber and throw to a real catcher."

And what will he wear for the occasion? Why, a Pittsburgh Panthers baseball jersey, of course.

SUNDAY BRUNCH!

Brunch is available every Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Every Sunday we will offer new entrees on the hot buffet.

Sunday Brunch Buffet Menus

Featuring Soup, Appetizer and Salad Bar, Dessert Table and Sundae Bar

Sunday, April 4, 2004—Palm Sunday

Don't forget to move your clocks forward Saturday night before retiring for the day.

Grilled Swordfish Steak, American Breast of Chicken, Tomato and Tarragon Carved Roast Pork Tenderloins, Madeira Veal Culet Florentine Ricotta

Sunday, April 11, 2004—Easter Sunday

Brunch Buffet 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Featuring a Steamship Round of Beef

Dinner Buffet 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Featuring Roast Leg of Lamb, Prime Rib of Beef & Baked Hickory Smoked Ham

Sunday, April 18, 2004

Roast Top Round of Beef, Au Poivre Honey Lemon Chicken
Grilled Atlantic Salmon, Dill Cream Cheese Ravioli, Marinara Sauce

Sunday, April 25, 2004

Roast Breast of Turkey, Natural Sauce
Braised Steak, Braciola
Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu,
Marco Polo
Tri-Tortellini, Alfredo or Marinara

**Brunch: Adults—\$17.95, Children ages 10-12—\$ 9.95,
Children ages 4-9—\$ 6.95, Children under 4—Free**

Plus tax and gratuity.



Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, April 26, 2004

6:00 p.m.: Meeting in the Pennsylvania Room

Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres following the meeting