



University of Pittsburgh

FORGED FOR THE GRIDIRON.

For the Pittsburgh Panthers, the Backyard Brawl against West Virginia is not just another game on the schedule. Dating to 1895, it is one of the oldest college football rivalries in the country, played by schools located just 75 miles apart—schools that compete for the same recruits. A game with immense bragging rights warrants a dose of audacity. On Nov. 26, the Pitt Panthers will show what they are made of when they don the Nike Pro Combat System of Dress. The special rivalry-day uniform draws direct inspiration from the century-old steel industry that shaped Pittsburgh.

The Pitt Panthers are known for their work ethic, determination, strength and endurance—traits they share with steel workers who put in long days in grueling conditions. Noting these parallels, Nike designers zeroed in on a fitting symbol: the blast furnaces that fire Pittsburgh's steel mills.

This point of inspiration is visible throughout the uniform. Rendered primarily in smoky College Navy and Black, the jersey numbers appear in metallic Team Gold to represent the brilliant glow of a blast furnace. The notched stenciling of the numbers and the gold stripe on the helmet are evocative of steel I-beams. The helmet itself is textured to resemble a steelworker's hard-hat. In recognition of Pitt's venerable mascot—the Golden Panther—a tonal panther-head design rests on the Pro Combat base layer sleeve, and also on the gloves, which read PITT when the palms face outward. Corresponding footwear in College Navy and Team Gold completes the commanding ensemble.

Rich in city and school cultural motifs, the Pitt Nike Pro Combat System of Dress also delivers significant performance benefits. The uniforms are 37 percent lighter than current designs, relieving players of extra weight in a game that demands top speed. The four-way stretch twill fabric rapidly sheds sweat and water, ensuring that even when wet, these uniforms are lighter than their standard-issue counterparts when completely dry. Dual-density foam padding provides critical protection and greater mobility than traditional pads for unencumbered speed. The Nike Pro Combat base layer allows for specific pad placement to suit every position, providing a highly customized solution.

The game of football has evolved. Players are stronger and faster, collisions more forceful. For the Pitt Panthers, the Nike Pro Combat System of Dress delivers unmatched lightweight protection in a formidable head-to-toe package.