



## On to the Next One: Confident Penguins Look to Upset Jacksonville State

PHOTO BY DAN HINER/THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University quarterback Hunter Wells (6) throws on the run over the head of Samford University linebacker Tonne Osaigbovo (29).

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University football team coming off its first playoff win since

2006, the Penguins will look to win again and advance to the Football Championship Subdivision Playoff quarterfinals.

This will be the first meeting between No. 3 Jacksonville State

University and the Penguins, and will feature two of the best defenses in the country.

“They are a good football team. They are a very athletic team and are well coached,” YSU head

coach Bo Pelini said. “It will be a good challenge for us.”

With this being the first time YSU has been in the playoffs for a decade, the atmosphere they will be playing at Burgess-Snow

Field, home of JSU football, will be unlike any other.

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# JAMBAR STAFF

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

GABRIELLE FELLOWS ..... GFELLOWS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## MANAGING EDITOR:

JUSTIN WIER ..... JCWIER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## HEAD COPY EDITOR:

AMBER PALMER ..... AMPALMER03@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:

PATRICIA SHARP ..... PMSHARP@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

SAMANTHA WELCH ..... SLWELCH01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ELIZABETH LEHMAN ..... ELLEHMAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## DESIGN EDITOR:

LAURA MCDONOUGH ..... LLMCDONOUGH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ASSISTANT DESIGNERS:

STEPHANIE NUSSLE ..... SNUSSLE@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

LANI NGO ..... ENGO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## NEWS EDITOR:

SAMANTHA PHILLIPS ..... SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR:

JORDAN UNGER ..... JAUNGER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## REPORTERS:

DANIELLE GARNER ..... DKGARNER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ANTHONY KRIM II ..... AMKRIM@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

RALEIGH BASINGER ..... RJBASINGER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

ALEXA DEVORE ..... ANDEVORE@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

AMANDA LEHNERD ..... ARLEHNERD@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER:

WILL KEFFLER ..... WKEFFLER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## COLUMNIST:

JILLIAN SMITH ..... JSMITH04@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## SPORTS EDITOR:

DAN HINER ..... DGHINER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## SPORTS REPORTERS:

ANDREW ZUHOSKY ..... ATZUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

MARC WEEMS ..... MRWEEMS01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## WEB MANAGER:

ALYSSA PAWLUK ..... ALPAWLUK@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER:

BRUNO SERRANO ..... BFSERRANO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR:

MEGAN WHITE ..... MLWHITE01@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## HEAD OF VIDEO PRODUCTION:

GRAIG GRAZIOSI ..... GRGRAZIOSI@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## VIDEO JOURNALISTS:

COREY MCCRAE ..... CDMCCRAE@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

COREY CRISAN ..... CDCRISAN@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## PHOTO EDITOR:

WILLIAM LUDT ..... WRLUDT@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## PHOTOGRAPHER:

ALYSSA PFLUG ..... AMPFLUG@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER:

CHRISTIANA YOUNG ..... CMYOUNG04@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## ASSISTANT ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER:

BRITTENY MARINELLI ..... BMMARINELLI@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

## BUSINESS MANAGER:

MARY DOTA ..... 330.941.3094

## ADVISER:

MARY BETH EARNHEARDT ..... 330.941.3095

## CONTACT US

✉ THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

☎ 330 - 941 - 1991

🖨 330 - 941 - 2322

## ADVERTISING

✉ THEJAMBARAD@GMAIL.COM

☎ 330 - 941 - 1990

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COURTESY OF GRETA FROST

(From left to right) Paul Sracic, Erik Glasgow, Brian Duricy, Marissa Snyder and Greta Frost at the Midwest Regional Moot Court Tournament.

# YSU Moot Court Team Advances to Nationals

JORDAN UNGER

Youngstown State University's Moot Court teams competed at the Midwest Regional Tournament on Nov. 18 and 19 at the College of Wooster. Four YSU teams competed, with one team advancing to nationals.

At the tournament, teams of two students studied case laws and competed against other teams in a simulated court case. Paul Sracic, YSU political science professor and coach of the team, said this tournament focused on a voter identification law.

"You basically argue a hypothetical case before a panel of judges," Sracic said. "It's a hypothetical case that's very close to real cases that have been decided by the Supreme Court over the years."

The teams are scored by ballots written by the judges of each competition. Sracic said the team with the highest ballot wins the case.

Eleven schools competed at the event, making up 36 total teams. The teams compete in three rounds on the first day and the top 16 teams move on to the second day. Team members Jillian Smith and Michael Marshall made it to the semifinals of day two, guaranteeing them a spot in the national competition in January. Marshall

said they competed together at nationals last year, and he feels more confident this time around.

"We now have some experience against the national level competition," Marshall said. "I think Jillian and I have both improved as debaters since last year, so overall I like our chances."

Participants were also judged individually to determine the top orators of the tournament. YSU competitor Marissa Snyder placed sixth, up from her ranking in the past.

"I scored 12th last year, and so I had a personal goal of being in the top 10 this year," Snyder said.

Five more YSU moot court teams will be competing on Dec. 2 and 3 at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan in hope of making it to nationals.

Eighty teams across the country will attend the national competition at Stetson University in Florida. Sracic said YSU teams have made it to nationals every year except once since 2008.

"We've had a really successful Moot Court program here at YSU," Sracic said. "We are currently ranked 12th in the country."

The students involved in Moot Court take a class to help prepare for the competitions. Sracic said the class encourages students to study the 21 court cases that the

Moot Court cases are based on.

"They have to become fluent in those cases," Sracic said. "So they spend the semester studying those cases and then practicing legal argument."

Marshall said Moot Court has provided valuable experience for a career in law.

"The biggest part of the experience for me has been learning to apply precedents and legal tests in the same way that practicing lawyers do in formulating legal arguments," Marshall said. "I feel that learning these concepts now will be an advantage to me."

Greta Frost, a political science student who competed in the tournament, was proud of YSU's performance. She said competing improves public speaking.

"I came into college being very quiet and shy, and you can't be quiet and shy in the court," Frost said. "It's wonderful, and you really get a good understanding of case law and how to read cases."

Sracic said he is proud of how well the team has done and continues to do. He said YSU is the only state university in Ohio with Moot Court, making this a very unique learning experience for the students.

"They enjoy the satisfaction of achieving this," Sracic said. "I'm really glad we've been able to provide them the opportunity."



# Megan Evans Wins Prestigious Sociology Award



PHOTOS BY BILLY LUDT / THE JAMBAR

BY RALEIGH BASINGER

Megan Evans, a Youngstown State University sociology, linguistics and English triple major, earned top honors for her research presentation on home ownership and impoverished people at a national sociology conference in Greenwood Village, Colorado.

Her research presentation, “An Assessment of the Effects of Home Ownership on the Lives of Low-Income Individuals,” received the ‘Best Undergraduate Research Award’ at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference.

Evans and Ashley Orr, YSU alumna, collaborated with the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation to conduct their study. Orr gathered the surveys while interning at YNDC over the summer.

Tiffany Sokol, housing director of YNDC, said Evans and Orr evaluated two of their programs, one that provides housing and financial counseling and the other that offers affordable home ownership to low-income individuals by restoring vacant or foreclosed homes.

“They were trying to determine the effects [of] counseling on low-income individuals who are going through that process,” Sokol said.

The study also looked at the effects of homeownership on low-income individuals and their aspirations for the

future. One limitation that Evans faced was that there were only 27 participants in the study, but she said the results of low-income individual homeowners having high aspirations were still encouraging. Evans said conducting research is something she plans to carry into her future career.

“I want to become a professor and do research on urban inequality and poverty,” Evans said. “Since both Ashley and I have this shared interest, we wanted to see what we can do.”

Evans said the first program they studied focused on making housing affordable for low income individuals in the community.

“These are usually the houses they purchase from foreclosures or absentee landlords,” Evans said. “They fix them up [and] they sell them at affordable prices.”

The second program is a financial counseling program that helps Youngstown residences set up monthly plans and pay debt, Evans said.

“It is little practices like that to help them with their financial management and also to help them be prepared for all of the things that are involved with owning a home,” Evans said.

A survey was conducted at the housing and counseling programs at YNDC. The survey asked individuals in the program about their future employment goals, future education goals and expectations and aspirations for their children’s education.

Based on the data, Evans said all answers to the questions were generally positive.

“We were seeing the housing and counseling participants relatively did have high aspirations,” Evans said. “We did see the homeowners were more confident in achieving their goals compared to the counseling participants.”

YNDC helped distribute the surveys to its counseling clients. Sokol said the corporation looks to improve its programs and is excited to see Evans’ results.

“She already won awards for it, and she hasn’t even completed it yet, which is awesome,” Sokol said. “I’m looking forward to seeing what impacts our program has had on our clients as determined by her survey.”

Evans said winning the award came as a surprise to her, and she will be using the research for her sociology capstone next semester.

“I plan on developing it more and looking at some of the other questions that we had asked,” Evans said.

Amy Cossentino, director of the honors college, said the accomplishment demonstrates the high quality education at YSU.

“Through Megan’s consistent desire to discover and dedication to make a difference, her research has been recognized [in] two consecutive years,” Cossentino said. “Megan’s achievements and the support provided to her showcase to our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community why we are Y and Proud.”

# Hackstedde Will Serve as YSU's Newest Trustee

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

Anita Hackstedde was raised in the Mahoning Valley and received her undergraduate degree at Youngstown State University. Now she's returning to serve as the newest member of YSU'S board of trustees.

"I have a tremendous interest in the success of YSU," Hackstedde said. "It gave me a great education. I wouldn't trade it for the world; it gave me a strong foundation."

Gov. John Kasich appointed Hackstedde on Sept. 16, and she attended her first committee meetings on Wednesday. Hackstedde will serve five years, finishing the term left vacant by the passing of Jim Greene.

Hackstedde said she is proud to have been selected. As a YSU alumna, she has a personal connection with the university.

After earning her undergraduate degree at YSU, she attended Ohio State University's College of Medicine to get her medical degree and did her residency training in Akron.

At the start of her career in the medical field, she decided to move back home to the Mahoning Valley.

"It's a great place to live and work and raise a family," she said. "I like to see the community thrive — there have been some positive changes coming about. I've loved seeing what YSU has accomplished in the past few years."

As the CEO of the Salem Regional Medical Center, she



PHOTO BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

is experienced with working on a board to run an organization. She has been CEO for three years — overseeing over 1,000 employees — and she was previously the vice

president of Medical Affairs for 10 years.

She said some of the struggles the healthcare industry faces are similar to those of higher education, like affordability.

"I do love my job," she said. "Healthcare is a tough industry to be in, just like higher education."

Hackstedde said she cares deeply about making education affordable for students, but she has other priorities as well.

"I do think ensuring a high success rate through high graduation rate and good job placement is important," she said. "YSU is doing a fantastic job, but there's always room for improvement."

Hackstedde said students, faculty, staff and senior leadership must work together to cultivate success at YSU. She said the trustees are engaged and care about the university, and they have to make difficult decisions regarding the university.

She described herself as a "glass half-full kind of person" and said having a positive attitude is essential to create positive change.

"You have to be realistic, but you also have to have a positive outlook," she said.

Leonard Schiavone, vice-chairperson of the board, said he has met with Hackstedde and believes she will serve the board well.

"I am quite confident that she will prove to be a very involved and dedicated trustee, and do what's best for Youngstown State University," he said.

## ALEKS VS ACT:

# New Math Placement Test at YSU

BY ALEXIS TIMKO

Youngstown State University will begin using ALEKS to replace the ACT developed Compass Placement Test.

ALEKS, or the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces, is an adaptive web-based mathematics placement tool for students. YSU plans on implementing ALEKS for the spring 2017 semester.

Lance Williams, coordinator of the Mathematics Assistance Center, explained that the department of mathematics and statistics began looking for a new placement product because Compass was being discontinued.

"This prompted us to look for a product that would better correlate student placement and student success in college math courses," Williams said. "After research-

ing and reviewing several options, ALEKS stood out as the product that is best suited for our YSU students."

Amy Gordon, director of the Testing Center, oversees the general placement process at YSU.

"We're very excited to use ALEKS," Gordon said. "What is really exciting about ALEKS is that students can log in from home, do a preliminary assessment, then, based on the initial assessment, be routed into 'prep and learn' modules, which allow them to work on math concepts that they are ready to learn and will help improve their overall math placement scores."

University participation in ALEKS reduces the student fee to access the program from \$99.95 to \$25. Upon login to ALEKS, students can utilize the assessments, preparation areas and modules for up to six months with no further fees.

Gordon explained that students who

spend time working in the preparation and learning modules will have a better opportunity to earn an accurate placement.

"Students are allowed to take the initial assessment at home, then will come to the Testing Center to take subsequent placement assessments," Gordon said. "Only the proctored assessments will count as official placement scores. YSU is giving our students up to four proctored assessment opportunities to better their placement score."

Williams recommends that students take the initial assessment at home or somewhere they feel comfortable, because the results of the initial assessment are what creates the student-specific plan, complete with suggested learning models.

"ALEKS will continue to monitor the student's progress and suggest topics that are appropriate based on the individual

student's path," Williams said.

YSU is not the only Ohio campus adopting ALEKS. Schools such as Antioch College, Baldwin Wallace College, Columbus State Community College, Kent State University, Shawnee State University, the University of Toledo and Wright State University are using the program as well.

Only students who are not satisfied with their ACT or SAT math placements are required to take ALEKS.

"The mathematics department, the Mathematics Assistance Center and the YSU Testing Center are dedicated to helping our students be successful," Gordon said. "Students who have questions or need help using ALEKS are welcome to call or email the Testing Center at 330-941-1343, [email] testing@ysu.edu or call the Mathematics Assistance Center at 330-941-1479."



# World AIDS Day

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR  
GABE GARCIA

For more than 20 years, Dec. 1 has marked World AIDS Day, a day that spreads awareness of HIV prevention.

Oct. 27, 1988, was the day that the UN General Assembly had officially recognized the World Health Organization's declaration of World AIDS Day.

"It truly is a day of remembrance," Anita Davis, Sixth Ward council member of Youngstown, said. "We remember those that have passed away from AIDS. In fact, we will be holding a candlelight vigil on the steps of the County Courthouse as we do every year. We will announce more on our Facebook page sometime soon."

According to aids.gov, one out of every eight people in America are living with HIV, which means more than 1.2 million people in this country are living with the infection.

Studies have shown that homosexual and bisexual men are more likely to acquire AIDS. However, over the last decade, the annual number of new HIV diagnoses have declined by 19 percent.

Symptoms of being HIV positive are a lot like the flu; fever, fatigue and sore throat, all which can appear two to four weeks after being infected.

"World AIDS Day is a day to reflect on the progress we've made since it first started," Tequan Cosper, clinic director of Comprehensive Care Center, said. "It symbolizes the lives that have been changed and the lives that have been lost because of this virus, but mostly how far we've come since the beginning."

The Comprehensive Care Center are usually the experts

Youngstown State University contacts when they want to conduct screenings for students.

"We have two types of tests to check and see if people are HIV positive," Cosper said. "Normally we use a mouth swab test that can be done in 20 minutes, or we use a finger stick test which draws a person's blood, but mostly we use the mouth swab."

On Dec. 2, the Comprehensive Care Center will be on campus offering free HIV/STD testing for students.

Carissa Brennan, treasurer of YSUnity, said that the organization will be involved with honoring World AIDS Day.

"In the past we have done a large organizational fair," Brennan said. "However, we are all new officers, so we want to scale it back. We don't have a definite plan yet, but we are thinking of doing a table in Kilcawley [center], where we can give statistics, [info on] where to get tested, [get students to] know the signs and give out free condoms."

Brennan said that World AIDS Day is a great opportunity to teach people about the HIV/AIDS virus — especially those in the LGBT community.

"... Many people in the [LGBT community] have died from it. Thousands of people died before people even really knew much about it. There is a stigma around HIV and AIDS that only gay men can get it, which is not true," Brennan said. "I really want to help educate people and help people know that it isn't a death sentence anymore."

The best way to fight against HIV/AIDS is education, Cosper said.

"Honestly it's all about using protection," Cosper said. "If more people took the time to educate themselves, HIV and STDs wouldn't be the stigma that it is today."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACOB SCHRINER-BRIGGS

## YSU Takes First in Ethics Bowl

BY ANTHONY KRIM II

Youngstown State University's Ethics Bowl team took first place at the Regional Ethics Bowl competition on Nov. 12 and will compete in the national competition early next year.

Tyler Miller-Gordon, Lindsay Heldreth, Jacob Schrinier-Briggs and Rachael Jenkins represent YSU. They placed second at last year's national Ethics Bowl Tournament.

The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Nationals will be held on Feb. 26 next year. Schrinier-Briggs said the team is preparing for the next competition by running practice rounds and doing research to expand their knowledge of ethical issues and solutions that can be implemented.

"It will be a rather intense process, but we were national runners-up last year and have our eyes on a national championship," he said.

The competition consisted of three 45-minute rounds in which each team discussed their stance on ethical topics and provided solutions to ethical dilemmas proposed by the judges.

Miller-Gordon said these competitions offer students a unique way to learn about culture sensitivity and helps a student develop public speaking and critical thinking skills.

"[It teaches] our college-aged citizens how to

have civil public discourse about sensitive issues," he said. "It informs the participants about a vast array of ethical dilemmas that we face."

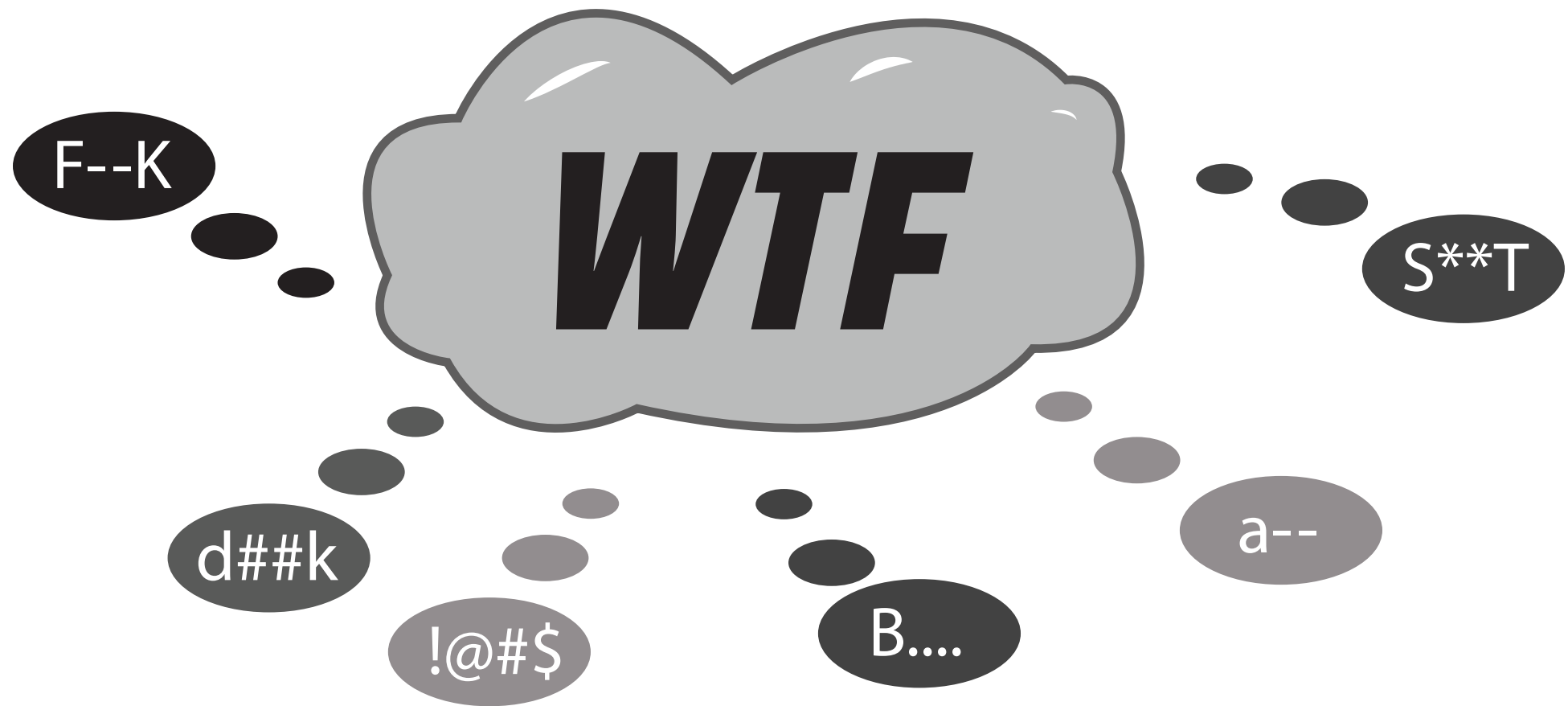
Heldreth agreed, and said civil discourse is fundamental to a well-functioning democracy.

"It's essential that our reasoning skills are cultivated in our education system on all levels," she said.

Schriner-Briggs said it's important for people to civilly discuss important issues, even when they disagree, especially during a time of political division. Jenkins said the competition enables them to have discussions that can lead to change. "Being able to engage in discussion with other college students regarding the ethical quandaries that the cases presented was an opportunity to create a dialogue about important issues that society encounters and work through ways in which they can be bettered," she said.

Although it's a competition, the teams don't have to disagree or argue opposing views. They have to effectively defend their position to the other team and judges. Heldreth said it's more relaxed than debate competitions.

Miller-Gordon said the support their team received from the philosophy and religious studies department contributed to their success at these competitions.



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE NUSSLE / THE JAMBAR

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR  
ELIZABETH LEHMAN

Whether it was Sen. Bernie Sanders talking about Hillary Clinton's damn emails or President-elect Donald Trump vowing to "bomb the shit out of ISIS," this presidential campaign seemed to include more vulgarity than usual.

In the past, this language was reserved for locker rooms, R-rated movies or maybe the Howard Stern radio show. But as evidenced by this election cycle, swear words seem to be increasingly acceptable in contemporary American society.

Cynthia Vigliotti, assistant professor in the English department, said she thinks the younger generation is taking some of the power out of swear words by frequent use.

"It seems to be used so frequently, or at least what I'm able to hear in my classrooms and my students talking in halls," Vigliotti said. "It seems like swearing is much more acceptable, and it isn't the shocker that it once was."

Vigliotti said that for her generation, hearing someone peppering their speech with frequent four-letter words was a reason to take pause, but not so much now for the younger generation.

"It just doesn't feel like it has that same sort of power that it once had, so maybe they're kind of taking some of that power away simply by using it and not really caring so much about it," Vigliotti said.

Swearing is about expressing ideas which are taboo. Steven Brown, retired YSU English professor, says there are four aspects of swear words — profanity or blasphemy, bodily functions, bodily functions related to sex and slurs.

"What all these have in common is taboo," Brown said. "The sacred should not be profaned. We cordon off bathrooms and bedrooms, because we think the acts which take place there should be mysterious ... So swearing is a lot about what makes us nervous."

Vigliotti said that when a word becomes considered obscene, it has to have some relationship to that function of providing us with a way of talking about taboo subjects.

"Now, race, ethnicity, religion, all of those, if you start thinking about derogatory terms for other people and their beliefs, always, there's a lot of obscenities included in those," Vigliotti said. "Because it's not something that we want to express very openly, so we find ways of shrouding all that in language with obscene words."

So, does use of profane words indicate a lack of proper vocabulary or lower intelligence? A language study published in November of 2015 said that is not necessarily the case. Called the poverty-of-vocabulary assumption (or POV), this argument is centered on verbal fluency.

The study said, "When it comes to taboo language, it is a common assumption that people who swear frequently are lazy, do not have an adequate vocabulary, or simply cannot control themselves."

However, the study said that the POV view is inconsis-

tent with language research in a few ways and that the theory of inadequate vocabulary does not make sense.

"Speech production research, however, shows that when speakers get stuck, they hesitate, repair mistakes or utter such expressions as 'er' or 'um' but do not simply spit out taboo words," the study said. "Second, recording studies have demonstrated taboo word use is relatively common among college students, and this population has higher-than-average verbal abilities."

So, if swearing is not caused by a lack of better words to say, what is the appeal of swearing? Vigliotti said it actually makes us feel a bit better.

"Studies have been done to show it reduces the level of cortisol, which is the stress hormone. It does really good things to kind of lower our blood pressure," Vigliotti said. "It helps you get something out, so in that exclamatory sense or in that emphatic sense, I think it's a good thing."

As time goes on, will swearing continue to become more socially acceptable? Vigliotti thinks, as a culture, we are becoming desensitized to language much like violence.

"Think about the way violence is handled by our culture, right? I mean violence is not shocking to us anymore. The more we are exposed to it the less of an impact it makes on us," Vigliotti said. "And I think language works pretty much the same way. You keep hearing the same language over and over and over, the power that it has is eventually just going to sort of wane and go away, and it's going to become acceptable to a certain extent."



# Dana Chamber Winds and Wind Ensemble Present: *Winter Dusk*

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music's Chamber Winds and Wind Ensemble present their last concert of the fall season, *Winter Dusk*. It takes place Thursday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium.

YSU's Chamber Winds is a group of performers who are a one-on-a-part ensemble, said Stephen Gage, director of bands at YSU.

Gage said chamber winds will use several instruments to present "Mack the Knife" as one of its movements. The Wind Ensemble is closely related to the symphonic bands that students participated in while in high school. At the university level, music schools like Dana have a wind ensemble.

"The YSU Wind Ensemble consists of 52 students from the YSU Dana School of Music, and it is a relatively specific set of instrumentalists who rehearse four days per week for 50 minutes," Gage said. "The title 'wind ensemble' often refers to a one-on-a-part concert or symphonic band, which are usually larger groups."

The title and theme of *Winter Dusk* represent the season just before winter. The Wind Ensemble, who takes the stage last, will close the concert with Alfred Reed's powerful "Russian Christmas Music."

According to Gabriella Sandy, YSU Wind Ensemble member, "Russian Christmas Music" is her favorite piece. Most of the piece is based on an ancient Russian Christmas carol, as well as some original elements of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Students in chamber winds and wind ensemble started rehearsing for the final

fall show after their concert Oct. 20. The students are usually scheduled for five to six weeks of rehearsal between each concert program.

*Winter Dusk* opens with the Dana Chamber Winds performing "Little Three-penny," a classic work by Kurt Weill. After a brief intermission, the YSU Wind Ensemble will take the stage and begin its program with Camille Saint-Saens' March "Militaire Francaise." The concert continues with Steven Bryant's "Dusk," which captures the reflective calm of dusk. The last piece is John Mackey's "Harvest: Concerto for Trombone," where professor John Sebastian Vera will perform a solo on the trombone.

"The work I will be performing is John Mackey's 'Harvest: Concerto for Trombone.' It's written in three contiguous movements and is about 18 minutes long," Vera said. "The piece is about Dionysus

who was a god of the harvest. In the winter life dies so it can be born again, much how this work goes through a tumultuous and climactic opening and finishes with a hopeful and joyful closing."

"It is always reassuring to have a large and enthusiastic audience to perform for at any live music event. Thus, bring your friends and family and share in this great music-making program with 75 of YSU's finest instrumentalists," Gage said. "We are incredibly proud of our students and our music ensembles, and I am certain that this will be a positive and memorable evening."

People attending the show can participate in a live tweet to share their immediate thoughts about what they hear. Tickets are available the night of the concert and are six dollars, tickets for senior citizens and children are five dollars and free for anyone with a valid YSU ID.

## Q&A With Santa Shuffle Event Coordinator Kelly Morocco

BY AMANDA LEHNERD



PHOTO BY AMANDA LEHNERD

The Draught House is hosting the sixth annual Downtown Youngstown Santa Shuffle. There will be music, prizes and raffles. The event starts at the Draught House at 11 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. on Dec. 3. The cost to participate is 10 dollars per person.

### What is the Santa Shuffle?

This is the sixth year we have done it; it's to raise money for local charities by visiting local business. We spotlight the downtown area, which has seven locations. Each location picked a different local charity to feature. The idea is you can come in and register and tell us which charity you would like your money to go to, and we will tell you which locations to spend your money at.

### How did the idea start for the Santa shuffle?

There is a worldwide version that we saw. The idea behind the original Santa Shuffle is to get as many people dressed up as Santa, then they travel to each local bar singing carols, buying drinks and food. We took this idea, and we made it into something that could benefit our local community. We wanted to make something that would have a positive outcome on our community, and that is how we decided to work with the local charities. The money spent at each local business during the shuffle will benefit the business as well as the charity.

### What charities will be donated to with the proceeds from the event?

Proceeds will benefit The Joanie Abdu Comprehensive Breast Care Center, Golden String Radio, Second Harvest Food Bank, Axemen MC, American Heart Association of Youngstown, The Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown and The Animal Charity of Ohio.

### What kind of activities will be available to people attending the event?

All the locations have specials going on. There is alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink specials and food. Five of the seven locations will also offer musical acts during the Santa Shuffle. The musical acts include The Lower West Side Band, at the Avalon, Leanne Binder at The Draught House, Eddie Berg at O'Donalds, Tyrone Hornbuckle at Suzie's Dogs and Drafts and Ryan Ross at the Tap House.

After visiting and making purchases at each location, you can make your way back to the Draught House at 4:30. We will be offering giveaways based on how many purchases you made. If you make purchases at all of the locations you will be in the running for our grand prize. This year the grand prize is a 55" Smart Television. The amount of prizes total over 2,600 dollars, some prizes including a Fitbit, and a signed work from Chris Yambar.

The main theme is meant to help local business at a time when funds can be low. This is a tough time of year where people are spending money at many corporate companies for the holidays and this is a nice way for people to support the local businesses.





PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

# YSU'S Long Night Against Procrastination

BY WILLIAM KEFFLER

Anxiety is increasing, the nightmares keep coming, and at this time of year, there is no escaping the ruthlessness of finals week. Calling all procrastinators, have no fear; the university is here to help. Thursday, Dec. 1, Maag Library is presenting its first Long Night Against Procrastination.

With time running out on the semester and the pressure of getting the grade growing immensely, the Maag Library will be featuring its Long Night Against Procrastination, a night pooling together nearly every resource on campus for students to get a jumpstart on the ever increasing load of finals.

The event, which runs from 5 to 10 p.m., is designed to encourage students to get a start on their final projects, or for the more time-savvy students, get the finishing touches they need to polish their projects.

Various campus organizations will be at the students' disposal during the night, including the Math Assistance Center, the Writing Center, the Multimedia Center, the Communication Consulting and Traveling Center (ConneX), various foreign language tutors, the campus recreation center's Group X and YSU student government.

Along with the many resources, the event will also offer gift card raffles, free coffee, cocoa and snacks. To ease the stress and the feeling of being overwhelmed by upcoming finals,

the event will host a meditation session, along with many other unwinding activities.

Amanda Miller, a graduate assistant at YSU, helped with earning a small grant to make this night possible. She said that she had heard about this international event at a conference and felt a great need to bring it to her campus. With another event already planned for the spring semester, she hopes this event can become a staple on campus for many years to come.

"We've positioned this night before finals week because we want this to be an incentive for students to get a jumpstart on finals before it's too late," Miller said. "We're here to help students at any stage of their projects, and with these many organizations under one roof,

students can work on projects in multiple disciplines."

Angela Messenger, the Writing Center director, said that she caught on to this event and helped Miller and other graduate students among her staff to make this night possible.

"We didn't want this to be an event solely revolving around the Writing Center. We thought if we could get every organization in one place for one night, it could greatly help the students," Messenger said. "It's an opportunity for us to showcase the many resources that the campus offers, but most importantly, help students to lighten their load before finals."

Even for students who prefer to study by themselves, this night can still offer the solitude they prefer. With the entire library

open, students can grab some free food, then find a quiet place to study. For Crawford Warrick, YSU student and self-proclaimed "library rat," the library is as familiar to him as the back of his hand, but he is interested to see what this night can offer that students wouldn't find on a typical Thursday evening in Maag.

"I think it's a great idea to pool together all of the campus resources," Warrick said. "I don't have a diverse semester of classes, because I'm a senior, but this consolidation should be a great resource for underclassmen trying to complete projects in multiple disciplines. There's no doubt I'll be taking full advantage of the free coffee though."



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December 2016						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

■ **12/14/2016** - Students receive Ebill notification by Email. Students are required to log onto their student portal to view and pay bill. Paper bills are never mailed.

■ **1/3/2017** - Spring payment due date including 1st payment for the payment plan.

■ **1/4/2017** - Credit Balance refunded (excludes first time borrowers). Go to [www.ysu.edu/bursar](http://www.ysu.edu/bursar), click on How Refunds Are Calculated for additional information.

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January 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <sup>so</sup>	24	25	26	27	28	29

■ **1/22/2017** - Last day to drop at 100% refund of tuition charges

■ **2/7/2017** - Payment Due Date

■ **3/6/2017** - Payment Due Date

■ **3/23/2017** - Last day to withdraw with a "W"

■ **4/3/2017** - Payment Due Date

February 2017						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

\* **Reminder:** Tuition, fees and all outstanding balances must be paid by January 3, 2017 for Spring semester to avoid substantial late fees and penalties. Courses may be canceled for accounts not in a paid status for term. \$50 late fee is assessed for each month balance is past due.

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- **Wednesday:** 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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## CONTACT

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# The Jambar Column

## Small Business Saturday

BY JILLIAN SMITH

This past Saturday, I spent the entirety of the day traveling from one small business to the next in honor of Small Business Saturday. The day, created by American Express as a response to the high levels of corporate consumption that occur on Black Friday, is celebrated typically with small scale events in communities with discounted sales and entertainment. My tour quickly became more than just a discounted sampling of delicious foods and cute homemade dog toys, however, and evolved instead into a profound learning experience.

Small businesses are integral to the success of communities. Multiple studies from the World Bank, the Kauffman Institute and the Bureau of Labor Statistics confirm that companies which employ fewer than 200 people and have been in existence for less than five years contribute significantly to both new job growth and overall increases in gross regional product. AJ Sumell, a professor of urban and regional economics at Youngstown State University, notes that this is largely due to a “multiplier effect.” This effect is the idea that for every dollar spent in a locally owned establishment, that dollar stays in the community longer and circulates that community more often, thereby generating far greater economic growth in the aggregate.

Far more than just positive economic growth, however, what I found, and what social researchers have found, is that small businesses contribute to a stronger “social fabric” within which ever community they are located. Multiple small businesses create a more authentic, safe and “walkable” downtown, drawing more visitors due to an increased perception of safety and uniqueness. That uniqueness subsequently generates greater pride and a sense of responsibility for maintaining one’s community and therefore leads to greater amounts of civic engagement for both business patrons

and business owners.

The most striking example of the positive change these small businesses have on their communities that I witnessed as I walked through the main commercial corridors of Youngstown and Columbiana, however, was a nearly palpable feeling of inclusiveness created by the enthusiastic cross promotion of the business owners. Rather than the sense of cutthroat competition, a new breed of entrepreneurs seems to be emerging in the Mahoning Valley. These entrepreneurs are committed to making a profit, just as any business owner would be, but also see their existence as part of a larger story. Through their hard work, these entrepreneurs appear to be striving to create strong, safe, vibrant environments for their neighbors and fellow business owners.

Marissa Devantier, the owner of a local goods-curating café called The Shop on Liberty Street, created her social media campaign for Small Business Saturday using local influencers to highlight and promote her fellow small business owners. She did this as a reflection of what she notes is the culture of mutual support that already exists within the community. “Everyone is doing this out of the goodness of their heart.” She notes, “When business owners work together to cross promote and use their influence to better the community, everyone wins. It’s important to think big and always have a regional perspective in mind, especially when holding events.”

Owning a small business can be a challenge. The U.S. Small Business Administration notes that more than half of all new business created fail within the first year. What’s more troubling: in 2015, nationally, business “deaths” began outpacing business “births” for the first time since 1970. But perhaps the Mahoning Valley has hit on a unique approach. Through mutual support, cross-collaboration and an understanding of a greater good being served, entrepreneurs in the Valley are finding a model that not only strengthens each other’s businesses but the entirety of their respective communities.

# Editorial

## Show Up or Shut It Down

Youngstown State University’s football team played its first playoff game in 10 years on Saturday to a crowd of a meager 5,322.

YSU shells out just under \$4 million a year funding the football program to have an attendance that measured about half of the 2006 playoff attendance.

The university justifies spending this much money on sports by saying that it draws in alumni and the local community, but it seems as though alumni and the local community care about the record of Ursuline and Mooney more than they do about the university.

YSU’s sports program isn’t the top of their league and attendance to any sort of sport is minimal. So when a university sponsored program actually does well, you’d expect the community to swell with pride and storm the stadium, beers in

hand.

Instead, locals fled to the bars to watch the Ohio State vs. Michigan game, which actually concluded one hour before the beginning of the YSU game on Saturday.

Even if people wanted to watch the YSU playoff game on a local television station after they wandered back home from the bar, they can’t. ESPN bought all the video rights to college playoff games.

So if members of the community don’t come to the one thing that YSU thinks is drawing them in, why is the university spending all this money to please a fraction of its students or alumni?

A more reasonable idea would be to cut down on spending in sports — shut off the lights of the stadium when it’s not in use, don’t buy expensive name brand sweatsuits for the teams or end the cell phone plans

that coaches get for free.

The university is hurting in ways that actively impact a majority of its students. Faculty members are being laid off, bathrooms aren’t always accessible to disabled students, buildings are falling apart and textbook prices are putting students hundreds of dollars in debt.

More conservative spending would allow the university to put money where it needs to be put — back into the school via professors’ salaries, into better buildings and new computers and software.

Now the community, the alumni and the current students need to make a decision. Either show up and support YSU’s sports teams while they’re doing well or support the reform of YSU’s athletics budget.

If you think you can write better than this,  
give it a shot.

thejambar@gmail.com



# Op-Ed: Abraham and Trump's Shared Visions and Problems

Martin Abraham has focused his term as Provost trying to develop Youngstown State University's programs for "jobs." This is not a new position. While acting as dean of STEM, Abraham referred to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences as the "College of Lost Jobs." During his time as interim provost, he argued that YSU students did not have the privilege of learning subjects such as history or anthropology; this was the privilege of the wealthy. Instead, students at YSU needed to focus on getting jobs.

This is a startling divergence from the history of liberal arts education in the United States. From the early 1900s until the 1970s, United States colleges and universities saw education as a means of developing strong, critical-minded citizens. This vision, birthed by renowned educational theorists such as W. E. B. Dubious and others, saw the rise of critical thinking and awareness for U.S. citizens with the improvement of everything — which included the economy.

Since the 1970s this vision of higher education has shifted. Across the country, higher education administrations pushed their undergraduate curriculums into an internship model for businesses. This has come with a cost to an education that cultivates students as citizens.

At YSU, the long-standing tradition of learning foreign languages, and with it, entry into different cultures and perspectives, was cut from many programs. While the need for learning history, cultures and religion is needed more than ever, the YSU administration has defunded much of their programs that provide critical content for this.

Currently, the foreign languages department and the philosophy and religious studies department operate without an administrative assistant. The religious studies program has lost half of its faculty; the Center for Islamic Studies has had its funding frozen for over a year.

In a similar vein, Donald Trump's campaign has promised financial solutions to problems with the working class. Echoed in many of Trump's speeches was the promotion of jobs. In a

September speech, Trump vowed to create 25 million more jobs over the next decade. The U.S. voters answered this call. Over 61 million people voted for Trump and his promise to "make America great again."

Yet absent from this promise and others made during Trump's campaign was a specific addressment of how to rectify the rise in discrimination and violence that directly impacts business productivity and workforce environments. Already, hate crimes are on a rise according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation 2015 report. Most particularly of note is anti-Muslim violence, which has spiked over 67 percent since 2014.

Unfortunately, YSU is defunding the very education that combats these problems.

Donald Trump argues he is for "all Americans" and Provost Abraham argues he supports "all the colleges." Actions speak louder than words.

Both continually promote jobs as the solution to social problems. Both have been critiqued for their failure to support dialogue outside their own camps. For Abraham, this is explicitly seen in his dismissal to change in the face of our climate survey's biting critiques of his leadership as well as his lack of unconcern over the uproar created by his support of unregulated fracking in the Valley.

If YSU wishes to help support its students and community, it will need to revalue its educational expenditures. Most specifically, administrators will need to recognize the value of courses beyond their relevance in "job creation," and numbers of majors in a discipline. It will require YSU administrators to revisit the vision of yesteryear's administrators — namely, that education serves not only to create jobs but also to create good citizens. This requires an increased value in general education.

Right now, this shift is a pressing need for YSU, the community and the country.

**MICHAEL JERRYSON**  
PROFESSOR OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

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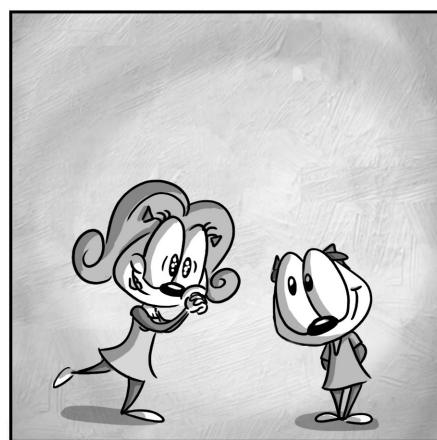
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# Bowling Team Already Ranked in Top 25

BY DAN HINER

For Chelsea Gilliam, the head coach of the Youngstown State University bowling team, the season has been a success to this point. The bowling team has reached the end of its fall schedule and has participated in the first three tournaments in program history.

Gilliam said the Penguins have done well for a first year program. Despite having wins over programs like preseason top-10 Sam Houston State University, she said the players still have improvements that need to be made if they want to continue their success in the second half of the season.

"Everyone's been super supportive around campus. [Everyone's] like 'you're doing great.' I'm kinda in the middle," Gilliam said. "We're doing great for a first-year program, but I don't want that to become an excuse of 'OK, we're good right where we're at.'"

The last tournament YSU participated in was the Kat Klash at Sam Houston State. YSU finished 10th out of 17 teams. Freshman Nikki Mendez was the top bowler for the Penguins and finished 17th in the individual standings with a score of 199.80.

"I think with our last tournament, we did well, but we

didn't do as well," Mendez said. "Our first two days were OK, and the last day we finally showed what we could do. I think that was an eye opener, and I think that set the tone that we can't get too high or too low. We need to be level headed and clear ourselves after each match and move onto the next one."

Freshman Rachel Darrow and Mendez agreed the biggest improvement the team needs to make is picking up its spares. Mendez said if the Penguins can start to pick up more spares in their matches, then the players will start performing up to their own expectations.

"I would say for a first-year program, [we've] done well," Mendez said. "Obviously, there's ways that we can improve, but it's gonna take a lot of work, like anything does, but we have enough talent and enough motivation to achieve our goals for next year."

The Penguins don't play again until Jan. 20 at the KU Invitational in Reading, Pennsylvania. The tournament will be hosted by the Kutztown University of Pennsylvania.

Darrow said the winter break couldn't have come at a better time. She said the break will allow the Penguins to improve heading into the more difficult portion of their schedule and correct issues like picking up spares.

"We are very strong, not that we've reached our full potential yet, but we're this close," Darrow said. "We know

that we can do so much more. We just haven't gotten there yet. I feel like with the practice in our off time, it will kinda boost us up to help us push through the rest of our season."

Gilliam said the tournament will be one of the largest tournaments on the schedule this season and expects YSU to be tested in the first tournament of the winter schedule.

Gilliam said the team has traveled with six freshmen and two sophomores to every event this season. She said the team has built confidence after every tournament and the results have somewhat exceeded her expectations.

"I knew the talent I brought in was here, and they could be that competitive as long as they can believe in themselves. I think they did surprise me," Gilliam said. "The very first tournament for example, I told them that I wanted to be [in] the top 10 — in the top half — and we were sixth both days. So they exceeded my expectations, which is amazing, and I'm very happy about that."

"I'm just hopeful we could keep that going, because we'll see all these ranked teams even more in the spring," Gilliam added. "Hopefully the next time we see them, we'll be an even better team and be more even more competitive with them and open their eyes even more. Even though we're young, we're here. We want it just as bad."

# YSU Looks to Rebound Against Robert Morris

BY DAN HINER

After losing to Canisius College 90-84 on Saturday, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team has an important week upcoming.

The Penguins play on the road against Robert Morris University on Wednesday and come back home to play Oberlin College on Saturday. After the next two games, YSU will go on the road to play Michigan State University.

YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said the next two weeks will be very stressful with the Michigan State game and finals week. He said the players will need to stay focused and win against Robert Morris and Oberlin if they want a chance against the Spartans.

Slocum said he was disappointed the YSU's effort in the loss to Canisius. He said the players need to play with more passion if they want to contend

for a Horizon League title this season.

"I hope the pain of a long weekend that we just came off of is enough motivation to feel that, to see that or understand that," Slocum said. "We don't have the talent level to play without passion, or without passion and emotion. Do I think we could have beaten Canisius? Yes. Can we win all the rest of our games? Obviously, you have great challenges against Michigan State and Ohio State [University]."

"But in our league, the common ground isn't that you're gonna shoot well every night," Slocum added. "The common ground is that you play hard, and you play with passion and you play with emotion every night, because that's stuff you can control. You can't necessarily control those other things."

Slocum said he's going to adjust the Penguins' pregame schedule before the game against Robert Morris but expects the

team to play with more passion and intensity.

"I like our group. I think we're going in the right direction with them," Slocum said. "I have not been happy with how hard we have played relative to how hard people are playing against us. We've got to match other teams' intensity, and that's what Robert Morris really does. That group plays hard all the time, and if we're not matching that or ready for that, then we will not meet success."

After starting the season 0-5, the Colonials have won back-to-back games on the road. Robert Morris hasn't played at home since the season opener against the University of Pennsylvania on Nov. 11, and Slocum said he expects the Colonials to play with more intensity than they have the past few weeks.

Slocum is also concerned with Robert Morris' style of play. He said the Colonials have four players in the starting rotation who

can play score off the dribble.

Slocum said that has been one weakness in the Penguins' defense this season, and YSU needs to play more team defense and tighten up driving lanes.

Last season, the Penguins beat Robert Morris 65-58 at the Beeghly Center. In that game, Robert Morris guard Isaiah Still scored eight points. This season, Still is averaging 15.9 points per game and is second on the team with 12 steals. Still is shooting 39 percent from the field and 38.6 percent from the 3-point line.

"I wasn't very happy with our effort. But it's a new week, [we're] moving on. Don't live in the rear-view mirror — look ahead," Slocum said. "[YSU's playing] a very good Robert Morris team that's coming off back-to-back wins — very athletic and very, very good guards. Their point guard is a very special player, he's dominated Townsend."

"That was a really good win for them. It's really the first home



PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

game they've had to speak of. They've been on the road for three weeks, so I'm expecting a great effort from them. It's a challenge for us, this game's a challenge for us."



# The Press Box Perspective:

# Time Ticking Down for MLB Players' Union

BY ANDREW ZUHOSSKY

In 2011, Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players' Association agreed to a five-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA) which ran through the 2016 MLB season.

Under the terms of the agreement, this CBA was set to lapse on Thursday.

By the time you read this, the Dec. 1 deadline for MLB and the MLBPA to agree to a new CBA will be here. As of the time I wrote this, we still do not know whether MLB and the Players' Association have come to an agreement on a new CBA.

Within the past week, things have gotten serious in the negotiation process, and it could mean that the team owners might have to lock the players out if an agreement doesn't happen today.

If a lockout is staged with no agreement from the MLB and MLBPA, Major League Baseball will be at a standstill from a business point.

A lockout would mean that no trades would be allowed to take place, and there wouldn't be any free agent signings going on, either.

Ken Rosenthal, MLB Network sportswriter, also mentioned that despite the potential lack of a CBA, free agent signings and trades, the Winter Meetings could still take place next week.

The main issue with the MLB and MLBPA as it relates to a possible lockout, is that some key aspects haven't been settled yet.

Rosenthal also said that the owners had a resolve on the table. They would agree to eliminate draft-pick compensation in free agency in exchange for the right to have an international draft. The MLBPA declined the offer.

If MLB and the MLBPA let this day pass without an agreement and a lockout is staged, 21 years' worth of calm between

them will be over.

Here's a brief history lesson in case you don't remember what happened the last time MLB and the MLBPA went on strike.

In August of 1994, four years after a lockout in 1990, which delayed the start to that year's season, MLB and the MLBPA could not come to an agreement on a new CBA. On July 28 of that year, both sides agreed to go on strike if no agreement was reached by Aug. 12, 1994.

One month later, then-MLB Commissioner Bud Selig broke the news that the rest of the 1994 MLB season, playoffs and World Series included, would be canceled entirely.

In addition, NBC Sports and ABC Sports, who entered into a joint agreement to air exclusive MLB telecasts under "The Baseball Network" title, had to share the broadcast rights for the 1995 World Series. ABC was to broadcast the 1994 World Series in full with NBC airing the '95 World Series in its entirety.

By the time the 1994-95 strike was resolved, 948 games had been axed.

"The Baseball Network" agreement between ABC and NBC was terminated, although NBC would split over-the-air rights to the All-Star Game, playoff series and World Series until 2000 with FOX Sports.

If there's one silver lining about a possible lockout this time around, it won't be happening in-season like the 1994 strike.

In my opinion, what MLB and the MLBPA should have included in these CBA negotiations is a trimming of the season down to 144 games and a later start to avoid having April games snowed out. I don't want to have a repeat of last year's aborted Opening Day in Cleveland again.

If there's no CBA agreed to by today, I don't think the lockout would be terribly long. MLB and the MLBPA have plenty of time to iron out a deal before they have to worry about missing games. Here's hoping they get the deal done quickly, though.

FOOTBALL  
FRONT

"Since our last game of last season, we know we need to put in the work to be in this tournament," Jody Webb, YSU tailback, said. "All the work that we have put in is to achieve our goals of winning a national championship. No matter who's behind us, we know we are behind each other, and we are going to do what it takes."

Webb also said that it feels great to be able to go into these games with the guys that they have.

With JSU's defense as a focal point for this game, YSU's offense is bringing in some good offensive numbers.

YSU's rushing offense gains 262.9 yards per game and the offense totals 419.6 per game. The Penguins also average 26.5 points per game.

JSU's defense only gives up 252.6 yards per game giving up 16.3 points per game. Those numbers are second and third in the nation. The biggest number for Jacksonville State is that they only give up 78.8 yards per game on the ground. They rank third overall in that category.

"They have a good offense, and the quarterback [Eli Jenkins] is athletic and very good," YSU safety Jameel Smith said. "We just have to come out and compete in every phase. We just need to eliminate big plays, and that's the number one goal on defense."

YSU has one of the better defenses in the country. The defense gives up just 17.2 points per game, which ranks eighth in the FCS. They have the eighth-ranked defense with 302.8 yards per game and have the 12th ranked rushing defense at 101.2 yards per game.

"I'm not too sure if there is an advantage," YSU left tackle Justin Spencer said about JSU's bye week. "At the same time, we played last week, and we are still in the football mode. We just have to keep competing and go from there."

One of the keys to the game that goes unmentioned is JSU's offense and what it can do.

"They have a dual-threat quarterback, and he does a lot to be featured in the offense," Pelini said. "They have good receivers and really good running backs. They know what they want to do, and they'll stick with it. Most things revolve around their quarterback and running back [Roc Thomas]. They are very capable of throwing the football."

JSU quarterback Eli Jenkins, a Walter Payton award finalist, leads the team in key offensive categories. He leads both rushing and passing yards and touchdowns in both categories.

"I think that when you get to this point of the year, when you play in our conference, you're pretty much battle tested," Pelini said. "We've played a lot of good games, and the team isn't going to be shocked by anything."

YSU travels to Alabama for the first time in school history to take on Jacksonville State in the second round of the FCS Playoffs. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday. The game can be seen on ESPN3.

# One Game Short Quarterback Tom Zetts Recounts YSU's 2006 Playoff Run

BY DAN HINER

In November 2006, Youngstown State University quarterback Tom Zetts found himself in the Holiday Inn in Boardman. Instead of being at home, in his dorm and relaxing with his friends prior to the Penguins' first round playoff game against James Madison University, he found himself in a hotel room.

The team wanted to remove itself from the campus, remove itself from the stress and focus on the task at hand.

Not even 10 years removed from the departure of former YSU head coach Jim Tressel, the Penguins found themselves in the midst of a five-year playoff drought.

Zetts, the starting quarterback for the Penguins from 2004-08 and a graduate of Boardman High School, found himself as one of the players that brought YSU back to national relevancy.

Zetts said the most important part of the playoff run was the closeness with the team. He said the players were "sort of like our own fraternity" and the chance to stay at a hotel before a home playoff game allowed the players to focus on their teammates.

"When you work that hard together and you're together so often, you can't help but form some pretty amazing bonds," Zetts said. "Without those guys, my college experience would not have been the same to say the least — I imagine it would be kinda disappointing if you had to compare it."

The Penguins almost made the playoffs in 2005. As the players gathered to watch the selection show and see who they were going to play, the Penguins found out they were left out. For the players, their season ended, and they

weren't lucky enough to be one of the last teams in the tournament.

Zetts said the disappointment of not making the playoffs in 2005 made the team more motivated to prove the selection committee wrong in 2006. He said they couldn't "leave any doubt in the minds of the people that make the decisions."

Playoffs at Stambaugh Stadium

The Penguins went 9-2 in 2006 and made the playoffs for the first time since 2000 and won the conference championship for the first time.

YSU's first game of the playoffs was at Stambaugh Stadium against James Madison University. In that game, Zetts threw for 24 of 40 for 314 yards passing — his completions, attempts and yards passing that day are YSU records in a postseason game.

"For me, I'm extremely fortunate that it got to be 'my game.' We had really good receivers, a running back that played in the NFL, we had an outstanding line," Zetts said. "Really [running backs] Marcus Mason and Monquante Gibson carried us for most of that season.

"Sure we put up passing yards, and we had our share of touchdowns, but our running game was really what carried us in a lot of those games. I just feel incredibly fortunate that when it came down to the playoff game, when my number was called, I was able to pull through for our guys. Yeah, it's convenient that I got to have arguably my best game in four years on a night when we were on ESPN 2, under the lights, 65 degrees over Thanksgiving weekend and we had a huge crowd. I'm so grateful that all got to come together in one night."

The Penguins hosted one more playoff game that season. YSU played Illinois State University in the second

round and won 28-21.

Mason carried the Penguins that night and ran for 158 yards on 26 carries and a touchdown. Zetts threw for 146 yards and two touchdowns that night to advance to the FCS semifinals.

Falling Off the Mountain

In the semifinals, the Penguins were unlucky enough to play the No. 1 team in the nation, Appalachian State University.

At the time, the Mountaineers were considered one of the greatest FCS dynasties in the history of college football. Appalachian State won the national championship in 2005 and would go on to win three straight titles from 2005-07.

"I remember Armanti Edwards was their quarterback, and he was like trying to tackle a ghost, and when it came to their defense, those guys were just fast — they were extremely fast," Zetts said. "They were like no team that we played to that point, and it was no surprise that the team won the national championship, and it carried over to the next season to open up with a win at [the University of] Michigan. So that kinda paints a picture. That was a very, very good football team."

Zetts said the pressure of playing in front of a crowd on the road in the playoffs is nothing like playing on the road in the regular season. He said the Mountaineers' crowd "added something to their game" and said the same thing happened when YSU played at Stambaugh Stadium in the playoffs.

"Any game that's close ... the energy in the fourth quarter at Stambaugh Stadium is outstanding. So you miss that on the road, but at the same time, you kinda prepare yourself for that," Zetts said. "You're more focused, I suppose, on the game. You do your best to entirely block the crowd out when you're



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on the road. It's like a 'you against the world' type of deal — Penguins verses the world, that may seem a little dramatic, but when you're out there, and you're playing to win, that's the feeling you have to have."

The Penguins lost the game to the Mountaineers 49-24.

Words of Wisdom

Zetts said he should have taken a different mindset into the game. He said he was so focused on the season ending, that he almost didn't realize they would have needed to play in the national championship if the Penguins won.

"Looking back, we may have relaxed that little bit and took that edge off, because it's getting so late in the year," Zetts said. "It was our fault. That was our first experience in the playoffs as a team, it's certainly not the coaching

staffs, but they can only take you so far."

The Penguins failed to make the playoffs in 2007 after going 7-4. Zetts said the following season was "a tremendous disappointment."

"It is a letdown, but now that I'm 10 years removed, you try to let that go and look at the big picture rather than looking at the chronological highs and lows," Zetts said.

Zetts said Brian Wright, his former YSU offensive coordinator, had some advice for the team prior to playing in the first round against James Madison. According to Zetts, Wright said "To win and make a run you have to have things go your way too."

Zetts said he can think of moments that every YSU national champion needed a little luck. And to this day, Zetts still believes that advice.