

YSU joins Midwestern Collegiate Conference

By BREANNA DEMARCO
Jambar Editor

YSU is gaining a bit more notoriety in the athletic department, as the YSU Board of Trustees are unanimously allowing the university to accept an invitation extended to the Penguins by the Midwestern Collegiate Conference, which currently has eight members.

The move also received the unanimous approval of the Intercollegiate Athletics Council.

The Penguins will become members of a conference that includes schools such as Butler University, Loyola University, Wright State University, and Cleveland State University, as well as colleges in Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin.

"We are very pleased to be invited to join the Midwestern Collegiate Conference," President David Sweet said. "This gives us the opportunity to play some of our former athletic rivals and compete against two schools from the state of Ohio on an annual basis.

It was Sweet who first recommended the conference change to the board.

He said a move by YSU would "augment all aspects of the university's growth and development."

Sweet said, "There are many positive factors in accepting the invitation. It assists with expanding the focus of YSU athletics into new geographic areas."

MCC Commissioner Jon LeCrone said, "We look forward to YSU becoming a member of the Midwestern Collegiate Conference family. Their

entry is a great addition to our conference as we continue to build, not only with our basketball programs, but also in all of our Olympic sports. This move is an excellent fit academically, athletically and geographically."

Pauline Saternow, YSU interim executive director, Intercollegiate Athletics, said, "The proximity of the schools and the success the institutions have had in the classroom and in competition make the move exciting."

By accepting this invitation, we can provide our fans an attractive schedule with more regional rivalries. Our alumni throughout the Midwest will offer us a great deal of support, and this will help us recruit student athletes from other parts of the country," Saternow said.

"While we have had a long and positive association with the Mid-Continent Conference and have enjoyed competing in the league for the past nine years, we enthusiastically support this move to the Midwestern Collegiate Conference," she added.

"The great exposure YSU will have in large media and population markets — and markets closer to home — will be of tremendous assistance to our student-recruitment efforts," said Sweet.

The conference is currently in its 21st season of existence, and the MCC viewing markets include five of the nation's top 30 television areas, reaching 9 million TV households.

The conference offers 18 different championship sports and provides NCAA automatic qualification, with football remaining as a member of the NCAA Division I-AA Gateway Football Conference.