

Stroia named as Penguins basketball coach

By **TIM LEONARD**
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John Stroia never expected to be a head men's basketball coach at a NCAA Division I university at the tender age of 30.

But he is, it was announced Tuesday by YSU Athletic Director Joe Malmisur.

"My goal was to be an assistant coach at a Division I program before I was 30," said Stroia, at yesterday's press conference in the Penguin Room in Stambaugh Stadium, "and I did that when I was 28 years old. But this is unbelievable."

Stroia becomes the tenth head basketball coach as well as the second youngest in YSU history.

Dom Rosselli was the youngest YSU head basketball coach when hired at the age of 25.

Stroia said he doesn't know if his age will help deal with players, however, he does feel a good relationship with the players will help.

"Hopefully at 50 I'll still be able to relate to the players," said Stroia. "The one thing Bill Dailey taught me was that he wanted to be the one coach he never had. And that's the coach I want to be."

Malmisur said Stroia was given a one year contract as the head basketball coach.

"In my mind I wanted Stroia [as head coach right after

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JOHN STROIA



New job: YSU Athletic Director Joseph Malmisur, top photo on the left, announces the promotion of John Stroia who replaces Jim Clemons as the YSU head basketball coach. The announcement took place in the Penguin Room in Stambaugh Stadium yesterday. Stroia becomes the tenth head basketball coach in YSU history.

Stroia

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Clemons resigned],” said Malmisur. “We just had to get him cleared by the [YSU’s] Athletic Council.”

How is Stroia going to coach the Penguins?

“I’m going to borrow and steal from everyone who I’ve coached under,” said Stroia. “I’ve learned from every coach I’ve played and coached under.”

Stroia said he plans to use 10 or more players every game.

Stroia, who was hired as an assistant coach when Dailey was named head coach, played his freshman year at University of Wisconsin/Whitewater for Dailey.

After graduating, Stroia served as a graduate assistant at Ball State University. In 1982-83, he served as athletic director at Ohio State University/Lima. The following year he was named the University’s head basketball coach, where he served until he came to YSU.

During the four years he headed the OSU/Lima program, his record was 83-31.

Malmisur said, “He understands the athletes who are coming back, and also the recruits who are coming in.”

Three of Stroia’s players — Steve Hanousek, John Gray, and Bob Edwards, who was red-shirted last season — were present at the press conference yesterday.

“I think he’s very personable,”

said Hanousek, a senior who started his basketball career under Mike Rice who was replaced by Dailey. “It’s easy for [Stroia] to relate to us.”

Stroia will have 15 players returning from last year’s team, a team which did not have a senior present on the squad.

“We have been young for the past two years, but the attitude is there. It’s just going to take some grooming,” said Stroia.

The Penguins begin their basketball practices Oct. 15, which is less than two months away.