

# Ron Strollo appointed executive director of intercollegiate athletics

*His integrity accounts for high marks in the selection process.*

By MIKE SANTILLO  
Jambar Reporter

President David Sweet announced yesterday that Ron Strollo has been officially named the executive director of intercollegiate athletics.

Strollo will become the 11th athletic director in YSU history.

At 31, Strollo has become the youngest Division I Athletic Director in the nation. He will take over for Pauline Saternow, who was serving as interim athletic director after Jim Tressel left for The Ohio State University.

During the press conference at the DeBartolo Stadium Club in Stambaugh Stadium, Sweet praised Strollo.

"Ron brings thorough knowledge and tremendous integrity to the program. His integrity was a key characteristic in his hiring," said Sweet.

Sweet said he was also impressed with Strollo's ties with the Youngstown area.

According to the YSU Web page, Sweet said, "Ron Strollo has dedicated almost a third of his life to the Youngstown State Athletic Department, and we are

privileged to have an individual like him in charge."

Strollo was a captain on the Penguins 1991 National Championship Team. He also earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from YSU in 1993.

Sweet spoke highly of Strollo's role in the recent switch to the Horizon League.

According to the YSU Web page, Sweet said, "He was instrumental in helping YSU move into the Horizon League this year and has the respect of the university administration, coaches, student athletes, Penguin Club members and YSU supporters throughout the community."

After about a minute-long round of applause, Strollo took the stand and talked about what it meant to become the athletic director.

Strollo started off by cracking an ice-breaker, saying "If I look nervous right now, it's because I am," and the audience laughed. From that point on, the serious business-like Strollo came out.

Strollo first thanked his family, the Penguin Club, Sweet, the YSU family and

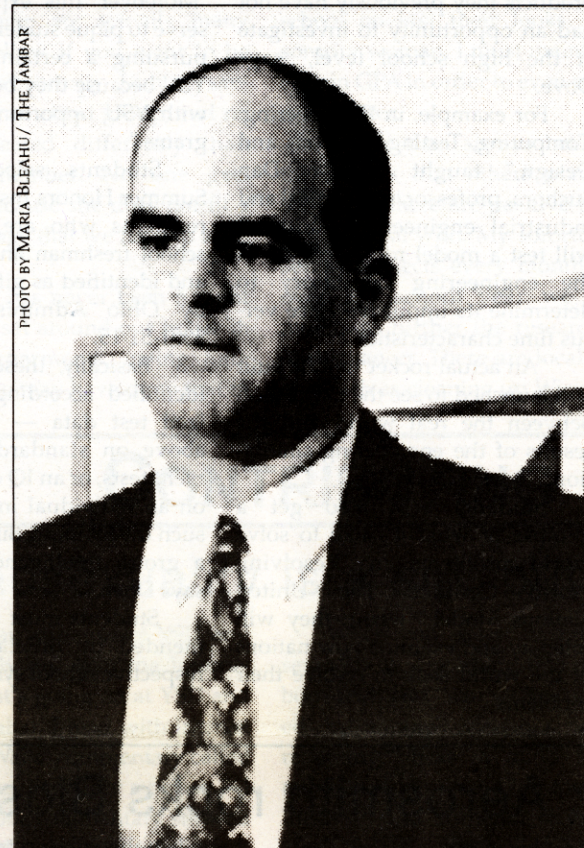


PHOTO BY MARIA BLEAHU/ THE JAMBAR

Ron Strollo spoke to students, faculty, administrators and visitors in his bid for the chief athletic position. Dr. Sweet announced his selection July 17. Strollo becomes the youngest Division I Athletic Director in the nation.

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made it very clear he learned a lot from former Athletic Director Jim Tressel.

"I'm very humbled I have been chosen to lead this university. My initial reaction was pure excitement — it was overwhelming," said Strollo.

For the past four or five months, I have been thinking about this position, and one word came to mind: responsibility. We have a responsibility to continue the tradition of excellence," he said.

"The athletic department is headed into a very exciting era," said Strollo.

Strollo said he is looking for-

ward to competing in the Horizon League and welcomes the challenge.

Strollo's first order of business will focus on the up-coming football season.

"I want to make Jon Heacock's first year a successful one," said Strollo.

Also, Strollo said he wants to hit the Penguin Club really hard and boost ticket sales.

As for the long term, "The athletic department and university has a financial base and plan we can carry forward. I will make sure we give our coaches the resources they need to compete," said Strollo.

Both Sweet and Strollo chuckled when asked about what the terms of the actual contract were. Neither of them gave an answer. Sweet commented jokingly and