

# the jambar

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Best season ever

## Penguins finish second in Division II of NCAA



A TOUCHING MOMENT--YSU football coach Bill Narduzzi and senior Jim Ferranti are lost in their own thoughts after receiving the second place trophy for Division II. (Photo by Tom Sheehan)

'One of the greatest coaches in the country'

## Penguin football players express admiration for 'Duzzer'

by Ron Anderson

The respect and admiration shown by the Penguin football players for their head coach, Bill Narduzzi, was never more evident than following the Delaware game.

"If he isn't, Coach Narduzzi should be considered one of the greatest coaches in the country because he treats his players like men and he treats them fairly," related quarterback Keith Snoddy. "There is nobody I could imagine that I would want to play for more than him. I have more respect for that man than any other coach I have ever been associated with."

Safety Kevin Statzer added expressions of praise to the growing list. "A pedestal is where Coach Narduzzi belongs. He is ready to sacrifice and give his all, and that's the way we should play. He is a man that you want to impress with everything you do, whether it be on the field or

off," stated Statzer.

"He sets the father image to the point that it is important to us how he looks at what we do," continued Statzer. "I feel that we have been blessed with his presence as well as his talent."

Wide receiver Jim Ferranti is another of Narduzzi's admirers. "I wouldn't want to play for anybody that isn't like him, and I really don't think there is anybody like him," said Ferranti. "He knows how to treat kids. He has made me what I am today without a doubt. He's the type of guy that can mold a person into what he wants, and you will love getting molded."

Perhaps the sentiments of tailback Robby Robson speak for the entire team. "Duzzer is Dad away from Wellsburg. I love only one man more in my life than Duzzer, and that's my Dad," explained Robby. "He's the glue that keeps us together, he's the dad you cry

by Ron Anderson

The 1979 football season came to an end Saturday, with the YSU Penguins finishing the nation's number two team in Division II of the NCAA.

The Penguins travelled to Albuquerque, New Mexico and came away with a heart-breaking 38-21 loss at the hands of the Delaware Blue Hens.

YSU finished the season with an 11-2 mark, which was easily the best ever for a Penguin football team. Ironically, both of the YSU losses were to Delaware.

The championship game had its share of excitement for both teams as the Penguins ran up a 21-7 lead late in the second quarter, only to see it vanish as the Blue Hens scored 31 unanswered points to snatch victory from YSU's grasp.

Delaware got the ball first in the game and proceeded to march to the YSU goaline, where they promptly fumbled it away to the Penguins, with Kevin Statzer recovering in the end zone.

The Penguins first drive was just as successful when the Dela-

ware were picked-off a Keith Snoddy pass before YSU could cross mid-field.

Both teams sputtered for the remainder of the quarter, resulting in a scoreless deadlock at the end of the first 15 minutes.

The second quarter got off to a positive start for the Penguins as Delaware fumbled away the ball for the third time, with T.C. Reynolds recovering on the YSU 38.

The Penguins then covered 62 yards in nine plays, capped by a four-yard run over right guard by Robby Robson, and the conversion by Carey Orosz, for a 7-0 lead.

Delaware came back lightning fast in just three plays, covering 80 yards, to tie it at 7-7. The score came on a 74-yard pass from All-American quarterback Scott Brunner to split-end Jay Hooks.

YSU came right back with an 80-yard drive of their own in seven plays for a 14-7 lead. Dwight Dumas went through the middle from the two for the score, and Orosz added the extra point.

Delaware's next possession stalled, and following a poor punt of only 19 yards, YSU had excellent field position on Delaware's 34.

It took the Penguins just four plays to score with quarterback Snoddy scampering in from nine yards out for the score. Orosz nailed the extra point, and the Penguins had a 21-7 lead, and their last score of the game with 4:44 left in the second quarter.

Delaware's next possession resulted in an 11-play, 80-yard drive that cut YSU's lead to 21-14. The key play came on a shovel pass off of a field goal attempt that turned a fourth-and-eleven into a first-and-goal on the four.

YSU got the ball back, but on the fifth play, Delaware's Vince Hyland picked-off a Snoddy pass and returned it 61 yards for a score, tying the game at 21-21 at the half.

The third and fourth quarters belonged to the Delaware Blue Hens as they ran up 17 unanswered points.

The lone score of the third (Cont. on page 4)



PUTTING ON THE PENGUIN POWER--Tailback Jim "Robby" Robson storms through Delaware's defensive line making him YSU's running leader against the Blue Hens. Robson ran for 127 yards and one TD in Saturday's game. (Photo by Tom Sheehan)

(Cont. on page 3)

## Up the 'championship ladder'

## Penguins stopped 'just one step short of the top'

by Tony Brudis

In the coaches' office at YSU, there leans a red and white "champion ladder" with each step representing a Penguin football contest. Every rung has been firmly placed into position—except the two denoting the University of Delaware.

The Blue Hens dealt the Penguins both of their season's defeats, including the most important, a 38-21 setback in the Division II National Championship encounter at Albuquerque, New Mexico.

For the Penguins, the 1979 season came to a close on a sour note, but head coach Bill Narduzzi, his staff and all the players had a fantastic campaign. The Penguins claimed their second straight Mid-Continent Conference title with a 5-0 mark, while their 11-2 overall record is the best log in the history of YSU football.

It was truly a record making season as many YSU marks were shattered and added to throughout the fall. Jim Ferranti, Keith Snoddy, Jim "Robby" Robson, Carey Orosz and Kevin Stutzer each etched their names into the YSU record books.

Briefly then, here's a climb up the Penguins' "championship ladder" which stopped just one step short of the top.

**FIRST RUNG**

The Penguins took their first step of the year by clipping host Illinois State, 33-27, in the initial meeting between the two schools.

Keith Snoddy led the Penguins' offense which amassed 410 total yards. The senior quarterback completed 14 of 21 passes for 229 yards and four touchdowns. Jim "Flea" Ferranti hauled in eight aerials for 158 yards, including three of Snoddy's TD strikes.

**SECOND RUNG**

In what marked the first of three consecutive defensive efforts, YSU ripped Central State, 17-6, in the Penguins first home contest.

Senior safety, Kevin Stutzer, YSU's all-time interception holder, gathered in one theft and sophomore linebacker Joe Scharner added another.

Junior sensation Jim "Robby" Robson broke the single game rushing attempt record as the hard running tailback carried the ball 31 times for 128 yards. Robson would later shatter his own mark against Western Illinois.

**THIRD RUNG**

Defense keyed the Penguins' third step as YSU rolled past visiting Ashland, 24-3.

Pat Durina, a junior cornerback, had a pair of interceptions, while Stutzer, senior noseguard Terry Dittmer and sophomore linebacker Jeff Gergal each had

six solo tackles. Dittmer added three tackles for losses.

Offensively the Penguins scored all of their touchdowns in the first half. Senior kicker and tight end, Carey Orosz, added a 36-yard field goal in the final quarter. Robson gained 118 yards on 26 attempts and Snoddy hit six of 14 passes for 91 yards and one TD.

**FOURTH RUNG**

Step four was a shutout at Falcon Stadium as the Penguins' defense held Northern Iowa to only 13 yards rushing and crushed their first MCC foe, 29-0.

"We're right where we ought to

be at this time of the season," related head coach Narduzzi. The victory marked YSU's first shutout since 1975 against Morehead State.

Jim Ferranti collected seven passes for 132 yards and a touchdown becoming YSU's all-time record holder for both career receptions and yards. Snoddy rushed for 72 yards and one touchdown, and hit 14 of 24 passes for 219 yards and two TD's.

Senior Kevin Stutzer, junior Larry Grist and senior monster back T.C. Reynolds each picked off a Panther pass. Chris Weber, a junior punter, kicked five punts for a 40.5 average.

**SIXTH RUNG**

YSU stretched its unbeaten mark and rungs to six as the Penguins rallied and nipped Northern

Michigan, 24-23, on the road. Snoddy directed a 10-play, 83-yard scoring drive late in the final quarter, and senior cornerback Tom Jaros intercepted a Wildcat pass in the last minutes of the game to assure the win.

Snoddy finished the encounter with 17 of 38 completions for 309 yards and two TDs. Jim Ferranti hauled in eight catches for 122 yards.

**EIGHTH RUNG**

Five records were shattered on rung eight, a 29-8 Homecoming triumph over Western Illinois.

First, Robson carried the ball 38 times and cracked his old mark

were to sneak in here, whip them good and sneak back out and that's what we did."

The game proved to be another record breaking contest for Robson and "Flea." Ferranti caught nine passes for 137 yards and two TDs setting a single season reception yardage mark. Robson, who rambled for 111 yards on 27 attempts, became YSU's all-time career rushing carrier. Robson also tallied four times and shattered Marshall Blumfield's single season mark.

Snoddy was awarded the MCC Player of the Week for the second time this year. He completed 15 of 22 passes for 225 yards and a pair of TD strikes. Chris Weber averaged 45.9 yards on five punts.

**TENTH RUNG**

The tenth step of the Penguins' ladder collapsed when YSU entertained Delaware and suffered a 51-45 defeat.

YSU jumped out to a 31-7 halftime lead, only to have the Blue Hens compile 44 point offensive blitz after the intermission. "They got the momentum and we were never able to recover it," lamented Narduzzi. "They just came out and put it to us."

Robson delivered another superb performance rushing for 264 yards on 30 carries, scoring three TDs and throwing a touchdown pass.

Robson and Ferranti both went over the coveted 1,000 yard mark for the season. Robson attaining the plateau by rushing, while "Flea," with three receptions for 70 yards, doing it by pass receiving. Senior Dwight Dumas picked up 93 yards on 12 attempts.

**ELEVENTH RUNG**

In the beginning of the extra rungs—the playoff steps—YSU rolled over South Dakota State, 50-7 with a solid defensive effort and advanced to the national semifinals.

YSU defensive squad caused seven turnovers and stopped cold the Jackrabbits' running attack, holding it to zero yards rushing. "I think our defense took a lot away from them," explained Narduzzi. "Turnovers are caused by putting pressure on them, and we had a awful lot of pressure defenses against them."

Robson again spearheaded the offensive assault, picking up 138 yards on 28 attempts. In addition, Robson scored four touchdowns and became YSU's single season rushing leader.

**TWELFTH RUNG**

YSU set the stage for the national championship showdown against Delaware as the Penguins thrashed Alabama A&M, 52-0. The Penguins rolled up a total

(Cont. on page 3)



**OFFENSIVE THREAT**—YSU tailback Robby Robson has been the big threat for the Penguin ground attack this season, with 1,489 yards rushing and 26 touchdowns. Robson has written his name into ten YSU records this season. (Photo by Tom Sheehan)

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**FIFTH RUNG**

The fifth step on the Penguins' "championship ladder" proved to be one of their biggest as YSU upset host Villanova, 27-22.

Robby Robson put on an of-

ensive show, scoring four touchdowns, rushing for 85 yards on 25 carries, and throwing a 51-yard halfback option pass to Ferranti to set-up a Penguin tally.

The victory marked the end of a five-year contract between the two schools with YSU holding a 3-2 advantage. "It's going to go into the record books that Youngstown beat Villanova more times than they beat us," an elated Bill Narduzzi said.

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(Cont. on page 3)

Ferranti compares leaving to losing

Penguin seniors leave fond gridiron memories

by Ron Anderson

After Saturday's championship game in Albuquerque, a number of the YSU players took some time to reflect back on their careers at YSU.

"We feel like we have really accomplished something in four years, and we've worked hard to get where we are at," stated wide receiver and co-captain Jim Ferranti. "When you have fun, and you get this far and accomplish the things you do, you can't look at one game and say, 'That's my

whole life,' you have to look back at four years and say, 'What has made me better than when I came here?'"

"It's the people you play for, the love you get with everybody else, and to have that is something they can never take away from you," continued Ferranti.

Senior quarterback Keith Snoddy echoes the sentiments of Ferranti regarding his teammates. "I am just as proud as hell to be associated with the bunch of guys that I was for four years,"

said Snoddy. "There are a lot of people on this team that have a lot of class and a lot of desire, and when you have that as a nucleus you are going to have an outstanding football team."

Another graduating senior, safety Kevin Statzer, reflected back to the end of last year. "When you compare us to our last year's ballclub, there were a lot of people who thought it couldn't be duplicated," Kevin remembered, "but we decided that we had all of the potential and the

coaching staff to do even better. Right from the first day of summer ball we just wanted to give it our best."

Statzer also points to the importance of his senior season. "Being my senior year, this has been the most important in the sense that in every game you just want to give it your all," explained Kevin. "It was a strong sense of feeling like a family."

Ferranti explains why it will be hard to leave the football squad. "I will miss the camaraderie and

the closeness you find with everybody. It just hurts as much to leave those guys as it does to lose," explained Jim. "It's tough to realize that you're not going to play with these guys again."

What does the future hold in store for the Penguins? Ferranti was very optimistic. "When everybody looks back at this year and realizes they want to get back on top, there's no doubt in my mind that they will be here again."

Practice sessions, tours highlight players' stay while in Albuquerque

by Tina Ketchum

Last week was certainly not an ordinary one for many YSU students, particularly the Penguin football squad.

The week began on the usual note with excitement and anticipation, but by the end of the week, these emotions had mounted as the team prepared to take the last step of the long climb towards the championship.

Early Wednesday morning, the team left Kilcawley Center for Pittsburgh Airport where they boarded an American Airlines plane for Dallas, Texas which departed at 7:20 a.m.

After an almost two hour layover, the Penguins left Dallas and landed in Albuquerque, New Mexico close to 11:30 a.m.

Once in Albuquerque, the team checked into their hotel, enjoyed a brief lunch, and was on the road again as they travelled to the University of New Mexico's football field. After an hour and a half practice session, the team visited the campus. Upon returning to the hotel, dinner was served

and they were able to relax after a very busy day.

Thursday found the team up and eating breakfast before leaving for practice. After the morning workout, the Penguins returned to the hotel for lunch and prepared to tour the surrounding area. The team took a visit to an Indian village and rode a Tram up the mountains.

That evening, members of both championship-hopeful teams were guests at the ZIA Bowl Banquet held in their honor.

The pace of activities was much slower on Friday. The team went through another practice session and returned for lunch. After lunch, there was time for relaxation or picking up a few souvenirs.

Saturday, following religious services and breakfast, the YSU football squad left the hotel for the University of New Mexico's stadium where the "battle of the birds" would be staged.

As the final minutes of the

game ticked away, all hopes of standing soundly on Step 13 faded. Although the team did not win the game, they did win the hearts of fans, several of which were still cheering them as they stepped off the buses at 7 p.m. Sunday evening outside Kilcawley Center.

Sunday night was the end of a very long climb for many, and although the team did not leave Albuquerque as the national champions, they did leave with many memories of a trip that none of them will ever forget.

One step short

(Cont. from page 2)

of 481 yards while limiting Alabama to a mere 68, with 61 of it coming through the air. Led by Reynolds and Jaros, YSU came up with two A&M turnovers.

Offensively Snoddy passed for 180 yards on 15 of 25 completions and four touchdowns. He also picked up 13 yards rushing and set a new record for most total yards in a season. Robson ran for 80 yards on 16 carries and a TD, becoming YSU's leading career rusher. Jim Ferranti hauled in eight catches for 97 yards and three scores.

THIRTEENTH RUNG

The Division II National Championship eluded YSU when Delaware handed the Penguins a disappointing 38-21 loss on the final ladder rung.

A pair of long touchdown bombs, a 61-yard interception return and a fake field goal snubbed the Penguins' title hopes.

YSU scored all of its points in the second quarter as Robson, Dumas and Snoddy each tallied on short bursts. Robson rambled for 127 yards on 21 carries, and Orosz set the final record, booting three PAT's adding to his total for the single season PAT mark.

The Jambar  
Kilcawley Center, Room 16B  
Phone: 742-3094 & 3095

The views and opinions expressed in The Jambar do not necessarily reflect those held by The Jambar staff, YSU staff, faculty, or administration.

ATHLETE-OF-THE-QUARTER

After this year's excellent performance of the football team, two members of that squad have been chosen to be honored, one from the defense and one from the offense.

Defensively, the play of senior noseguard Terry Dittmer has been the most dependable on a game-in game-out basis. Terry has been responsible for both shutting down the opposition's inside running game, and keeping a great deal of pressure on the quarterback. To fill the gap left by Terry's graduation will be one of the toughest tasks ahead for next year's team.

On the offense, the play of senior right tackle Jeff Lear can only be described as complete domination. Jeff, who measures up at 6-4, 280 pounds, is a frightening sight to behold as he opens up huge holes for Penguin runners and steers the defensive charge away from YSU quarterbacks. It is not hard to understand why some of the biggest gains by our runners have come this year on the right side of the line.

Admiration

(Cont. from page 1)

to when you're in trouble, he's everything to me," continued Robby. "When you have Duzzer behind you, you want to play good because he is such a great guy."

"We are always going to be winning as long as Coach Narduzzi is here," concluded Robson.

the Pub Auditions January 8 For more information, call 742-3575

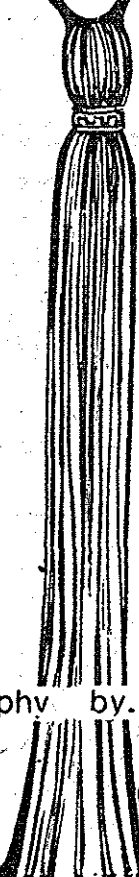
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## Thanks, Duzzer

The football season is over and a team that wasn't even picked to win its conference managed to finish second in the nation, after making a shambles of that same conference. That team is, of course, our own YSU Penguins.

A great deal of the team's success is supplied by the efforts of the players. This year's squad is no exception with a great deal of hard work and sacrifice paying large dividends to the program.

Credit should also go out to the coaching staff and all of those who have been connected in any way with the athletic department.

However, I feel that the majority of the credit should go to the man who is directly responsible for building the YSU foot-

ball program, and making it into a year-in year-out winner, head coach Bill Narduzzi.

Our head coach is a rarity. He is not only a good tactician with tremendous football knowledge and adaptability, but he is also one of the kindest and warmest people you would ever care to meet. He is a person who takes the time and effort to express genuine concern and caring for everyone around him.

I would like to publicly thank you coach, for all of the help you have given me, making it a lot easier to cover the games. As far as I am concerned, you will always be coach-of-the-year every year, wherever you are.

## Finish second

(Cont. from page 1)

period came as Brunner again found Hooks with a bomb, this time for 75 yards and a 28-21 lead.

A 47-yard field goal by Brandt Kennedy, and a 34-yard run by Gino Oliveri added the final ten points to a 38-21 Delaware win in the final 15 minutes.

"We didn't do the things that got us here," explained YSU coach Bill Narduzzi. "We had a couple of big breakdowns on defense, and we didn't play pass-and-catch very well."

On offense, the Penguins were led by junior tailback Robby Robson who gained 127 yards, and scored one touchdown in 27 carries.

Receiver Randy Beal had his best game of the season for YSU, grabbing four passes for 82 yards,

and providing the lone spark in the Penguin passing game.

Chris Weber had a super day punting, averaging 44 yards per kick, with his longest boot traveling 58 yards.

On defense for the Penguins, senior noseguard Terry Dittmer turned in a strong performance.

"I think Terry had a good game," related Narduzzi. "Their inside running game didn't get much production."

Stand-outs for the Blue Hens were Scott Brunner and Jay Hooks. Brunner passed for 296 yards and three scores, and Hooks hauled in four passes for 182 yards and a pair of scores.

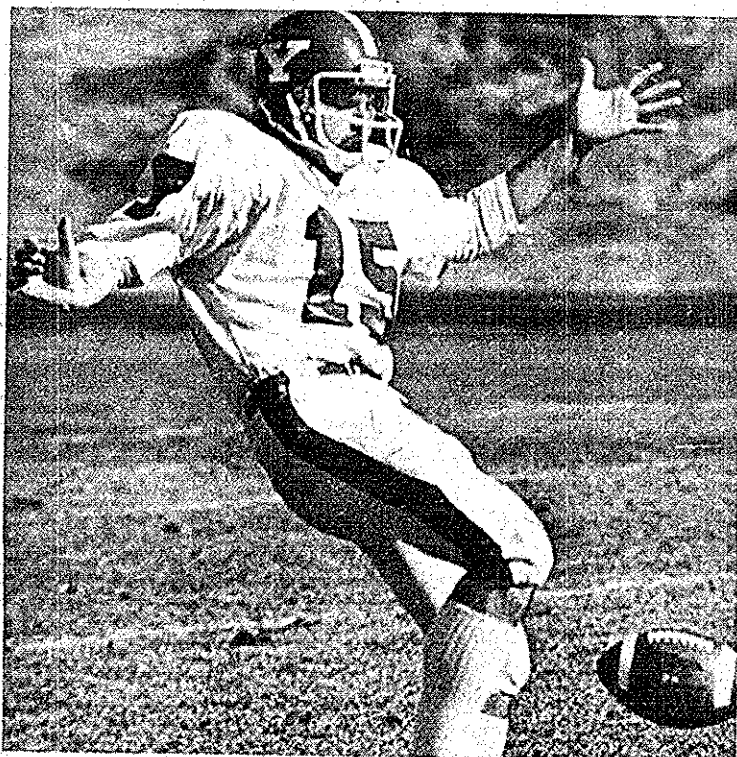
Team-wise, Delaware rolled up 477 yards, as compared to 319 for YSU. The rushing category

was close with YSU 166 to Delaware's 152. The passing department made the difference as Delaware held a 325-153 edge in yardage.

This YSU team, which has been more successful than any other in the school's history, will be graduating 18 seniors, 12 of which are starters.

"Those are 18 super kids," said a proud Narduzzi. "They have won more games than any other group at this school."

This football squad accomplished both more wins and recordbreaking performances than any other at YSU. They have also managed to come just one step closer to the goal of a national championship in football.



**HEADS UP**—Punter Chris Weber put the football in a tailspin Saturday averaging 44 yards per kick. The Weber foot will return next season. (Photo by Tom Sheehan)