



One of two members of striking structural Ironworkers Local 207 pickets in front of the stadium Monday morning. (Photo by Clem Marion)

On Strike!

Ironworkers stall stadium work

by John Celidonio

A lengthy strike by construction workers at the Arnold B. Stambaugh Stadium could affect the scheduled completion of the project and the scheduled home football opener against the Akron Zips Sept. 4, according to YSU officials.

Two members of Local 207 of the Structural Ironworkers Union established a picket line in front of the stadium Monday morning. The picketers said that most of the other stadium construction workers, with the exception of some members of the carpenters union, had not crossed their line.

Nick Leonelli, campus development director, described the situation as "up in the air," adding that although most of the structural ironwork is already complete, picketing by that union could affect the whole project. He noted that most of the stadium workers refused to cross picket lines Monday morning.

Leonelli said that the schedule for

completion of the stadium is "very tight" and that a three- to four-week strike could prevent the construction from being completed in time.

Lanny Burton, business agent for the Ironworkers' local, said no talks are currently scheduled, but that he expects negotiations to resume sometime after members of the Builders Association of Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania meet this Wednesday.

He said the union had offered a contract extension to allow work to continue after the contract expired last Friday but had been turned down by the builders' association.

Burton said he hoped the strike would not be a long one, but noted that negotiations in both Cleveland and Pittsburgh had also failed, resulting in strikes of about 30 days before a settlement was reached.

No contingency plan to reschedule the first games at another location exists at this time, according to Athletic Director and head football coach Bill Narduzzi, who said, "Let's just keep our fingers crossed and hope that the strike doesn't continue so long that we have a problem."