

Trustees give signal to begin stadium study

A green light was given to YSU President John Coffelt to study the possibility of a five to six million dollar sports facility at Saturday's Board of Trustees meeting.

Two million dollars of YSU money has been earmarked for the complex, with the remainder to be raised from private sources.

Funding for the new complex may be a problem with the university planning to pay only two million of the six million dollar bill. The state will not pay for the project because it will not be used for academic purposes. Thus the university plans to rely on public and private contributions to foot the rest of the six million dollar bill.

The University's two million share will come from capital funds approved by the state legislature, Youngstown Educational Foundation monies, and funds that the Trustees earlier set aside as a development reserve, said Coffelt Monday.

The complex, to be located on Fifth Avenue north of Beeghly, will include a) eight lighted, hard surfaced tennis courts, b) four combination baseball and softball diamonds, c) a six lane, all weather track facility, d) an all-weather, lighted synthetic athletic and physical education field to accommodate the field hockey, soccer and football programs (ie, stadium), e) additional locker space and storage rooms.

Coffelt added that the stadium is not a sure project, depending on how much money is raised from private sources. He added, however, that the other facilities, to be used for instructional purposes, will definitely be built.

Coffelt said that in his conversations with students over the past years, he has gained the impression that they do support

the athletic program, although he said that he does not know how students feel about a stadium, specifically.

Athletic director Paul Amodio said of the proposed project, "I am pleased that the University is taking this step towards the development of the outdoor facility. It will provide additional space in which to provide for our growing womens sports program.

Construction of the proposed stadium and all sports complex will begin as soon as the parking deck on Wick Street is completed which should be about 1978.