

New coach on the block

Peters takes over reins of YSU men's basketball

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Sports Editor

In a time that many college basketball fans call "March Madness," YSU has brought a little sanity to its men's basketball team.

Dan Peters, who for the last two years was the head coach of St. Joseph's in Indiana, was named YSU's men's basketball coach on March 17 at Stambaugh Stadium.

Peters, a native of Canton and a graduate of Kent State, said he's excited about the possibilities here.

"I'm very happy and very pleased to have the opportunity to sit in this chair again," said Peters at the press conference held in the Penguin Room. "When I came here to interview, I wanted to see if there were the types of people I wanted to work with. I was very pleased with the people here."

Although Peters said that his first priority is to talk with the current players, he wants to give the Penguins a new outlook.

"I don't know any of the (current) players and I don't know anything about them," said Peters. "As far as I'm concerned, we're going to start from scratch. I'm not making any judgments about them until I

can meet with them."

Peters will take over his duties immediately, replacing John Stroia, who leaves YSU with a 29-81 mark over four seasons.

Peters himself has a distinguished career as a college basketball coach. He worked as a graduate assistant at Delta State before becoming an assistant to Bob Huggins at Walsh College from 1980 to 1983.

When Huggins left Walsh, Peters became the head coach, posting a 116-39 record in five years there. Peters then went on to be an assistant at Western Carolina and Akron before accepting the head coaching position at St. Joseph's, a Division II school.

In two years, Peters compiled a 43-14 record, which included a trip to the playoffs after the 1991-92 campaign.

In terms of recruiting, Peters said he wants to handle it on an even keel.

"The one thing you don't want to do is panic because sometimes there is a tendency to panic and you end up making mistakes," said Peters.

One of the things that Peters emphasized throughout the press conference was to give the entire basketball program a positive image and outlook, something that may have been lacking over the past several years.

"I just want to get to work and start heading in the right direction," said Peters. "That all

begins with the players. Let's get them thinking positive about themselves."

Despite all the hopes for success on the basketball court,
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Welcome Coach Peters. Dan Peters talks to the media in a press conference March 17 after YSU Athletic Director Joe Malmisur introduced him as YSU's new men's basketball coach. Peters, a native of Canton, has compiled a winning percentage of .750 over seven years at Walsh College and St. Joseph's (Ind.).

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Peters

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Peters said he knows what is really important about coaching a basketball team.

"I believe education is very important," said Peters. "If you don't have an education, you're going to be in trouble from the get-go. But having an education isn't enough. You better be able to be a competitor, too."

Peters spoke highly of his stand in educating student athletes. According to Peters, all but one of the seniors he has

coached has graduated. The lone senior who did not graduate went into the military instead.

Peters also talked about the ease of coaching players that want to learn.

"If you have players that go to class, it makes it a lot easier to coach these guys," said Peters.

Peters becomes the eleventh head coach in the history of YSU basketball. He becomes the fifth head coach after the retirement of the legendary Dom Rosselli. One of the five coaches, Bill Dailey, died in August 1987 before he coached a game.