

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

# #JAMBAR

## THE BUTLER CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF AMERICAN ART

Pictured "Flabbergasted" by Todd Gray. Photo by **Frances Clause/The Jambar**

### FRANCES CLAUSE

Since 1919, the Butler Institute of American Art has preserved and collected art by citizens of this country, currently exceeding 20,000 individual works. On its 100-year anniversary, the Butler remains nationally known as "America's Museum."

Founded by Joseph G. Butler Jr., the Butler continues to bring art enthusiasts to its galleries that provide a walk through American history. The museum celebrates its anniversary with new exhibits, various accomplishments and events for the community to enjoy.

Under the direction of Louis Zona, executive director and chief curator at the Butler, the museum has received national accreditation, opened two branch museums, added more works to its collection and acquired the neighboring church, Butler North, where folk art is shown.

Zona said visitors can expect to see more new exhibits this year.

"There are three new exhibits, with the most popular being the art of Winfred Rembert, a 75-year-old African-American artist from Georgia and an exhibit of the greatest pastels in America from the Pastel Society of America," he said.

Visitors can also view an exhibit by Todd Gray, a contemporary pop artist whose work features 20 mixed media wall and floor sculptures.

The bold colors and patterns of this exhibit revisits the Pop Art Era through its comic book exclamations, emoji and hashtags. Gray, with his unique visual language of sampling classic pop art ideas, said he is proud to have his exhibit at the Butler.

"[The Butler's] collections are second to none, and the way their collections are displayed is really very nice," he said. "To be showing my work in the company of such esteemed artists

was and is a great honor for me."

Gray's exhibit has been traveling for over two years, and the Butler has been his favorite stop along the way.

"The Butler is one of the finest museums in the entire United States, and as Youngstown continues to evolve and prosper, the Butler will continue to be among the very epicenter of its artistic and cultural soul," he said.

Along with viewing the Butler's classic or new exhibits, visiting Collections Café and stopping at the gift shop, art classes are offered to those who are interested in creating their own masterpieces.

Mary Pat George, lead art instructor of children's art classes, has been teaching at the Butler for 42 years and said she believes the classes leave a positive impact on the community.

"The arts have always been linked with higher test scores as well as therapeutic benefits," she said. "It can be very calming for students with ADHD, as well as a release for those students

who may be suffering turmoil or other issues in their lives."

Michelle Gabriel, a senior graphic design major at Youngstown State University, is happy to see the Butler continues to stress the importance of art education to the community in its 100th year.

"I have been going to the Butler since I was in seventh grade," she said. "It is right on campus, and people can learn as much as they want about different styles in between classes."

Gabriel believes the Butler is unlike any other museum with its interactive components and contrasting styles.

"I love the upstairs exhibits because they're always changing," she said.

"[The exhibits] make me feel like I'm visiting new friends who moved in with old friends," she added, referring to new works among the Butler's classics. "Every great city has a great art museum, and the Butler is ours."

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# REC CENTER OFFERING STRESS-FREE ACTIVITIES

Photo by *J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar*

## **COURTNEY HIBLER**

The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center offered a Stress Free Week from Feb. 4-8 filled with different stress-reducing activities for Youngstown State University students.

Students were taught how to meditate and reach mindfulness, balance a diet with healthy stress eating and improve their organization skills.

Pat Bornemiss, a student facility supervisor at the rec, said the purpose of Stress Free Week was to teach students and faculty how to better manage and reduce their stress.

“Stress is commonly encountered throughout the semester,” he said. “I’ve personally seen these activities contribute to an individual’s well-being.”

Bornemiss said the activities for Stress Free Week were focused around the Nine Pillars of Wellness: emotional, career, spiritual, physical, financial, aesthetic, environmental, social and

intellectual wellness.

Briana Cerneka, a senior psychology major, attended Stress Free Week and enjoyed learning about meditation.

“Meditation relaxes your body and mind,” she said. “I become stressed extremely easily and learning how to do something as simple as relax my breathing can do wonders.”

Cerneka said she thinks Stress Free Week was the best thing the rec could do to help the YSU community battle growing stress and anxiety levels.

“Students can react negatively to different types of stress and it isn’t healthy,” she said. “They will slowly start to see a decline in grades, social interaction, family communication and health.”

Bornemiss said people combat stress differently depending on their unique stressors and some stress-relieving activities or coping mechanisms may not work for everyone.

“For example, if someone has multiple jobs they can benefit from becoming educated on time management and organizational

skills,” he said. “If someone is independently combating stress, they may seek a session on meditation and mindfulness.”

Marlaina Ruby, a senior early childhood associate major, said it’s easy to become stressed and anxious with school work.

“Attending these sessions can be extremely beneficial,” she said. “I see a lot of students and faculty members strengthening their mental health from just a few simple tips and tricks.”

In Ruby’s opinion, more Stress Free Weeks should be added to YSU’s rec center schedule.

For more information and a schedule on future events the rec will be holding, students can visit:

<http://cms.yosu.edu/administrative-offices/campus-recreation-and-wellness/andrews-rec-center>.

“We encourage students to check our website out and stop by with any questions they may have,” Bornemiss said. “The beginning of stronger wellness starts with the initiative to attend a session.”



Welcome to the Office of  
Financial Aid & Scholarships

Youngstown  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HAS MINIMAL IMPACT ON YSU

Photo by **Tanner Mondok/The Jambar**

### JOHN STRAN

During the 35-day partial government shutdown, Youngstown State University was spared from any major hardships involving lack of access to federal funding for students and staff.

Katrina Davidson, controller for YSU, said the university's ability to draw down cash for federal financial aid for students was not impacted by the shutdown.

According to Elaine Ruse, director of the office of financial aid and scholarships, federal student aid YSU students were qualified to receive was disbursed without delay during the shutdown.

The financial aid process for students was done in advance of the shutdown, which is why YSU students received their funding on time.

"While this was the longest government shutdown in the history of the republic, effects on higher education were fairly

minimal," Greg Dillon, interim associate vice president for research, said.

"During a shutdown, no new money can be committed but existing budget dollars continue to be spent," Dillon said. "There was a possibility that bill payment and reimbursement might have been slowed if it dragged on for longer."

To Dillon, YSU helping their students is the top priority.

YSU students promptly received their financial aid, but there are other ways the shutdown may have affected students across the United States.

According to a story by Inside "Higher Ed," colleges such as the College of Southern Maryland has students who were affected by the shutdown because many students and parents in the area are federal employees.

The shutdown didn't affect these students' financial aid, but it may have made it more difficult to pay for tuition, books and

class fees.

Federal funding is a vital source of income for YSU, and Dillon said it's fairly common for YSU to get over 50 percent of its research funding from the federal level, but he doesn't see this percentage as an issue at the university because sources of funding for the campus are so diverse.

"I'm of the opinion that a healthy foundation of basic research is necessary to maintain a sustainable research enterprise," he said. "I always like to see other sources, like private industry, making up a substantial proportion of our external funding."

Hypothetically, if students' financial aid were delayed, Davidson said she was unaware of any legal contract binding YSU to help students with funding for tuition.

The shutdown ended Jan. 25 but the government could close again in February.

## A UNIVERSITY INN

### BRIAN BRENNAN

The Wick-Pollock Inn served both Youngstown College and the local community. It was a fashionable venue for business meetings and lunches, wedding receptions and business conferences. It also provided on-campus accommodations for visitors to the university.

Built in 1890 for his children by Paul Wick, the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Porter Pollock in 1900. It was acquired by YoCo in 1950 and named Pollock House. It would be home for a time to Army ROTC, the Youngstown Education Foundation and the YSU Credit Union. The parlor and other rooms on the main floor were utilized for social events and meetings.

YSU considered demolishing Pollock House in 1976. Instead, the university allocated \$8,000 for renovations. In 1985, the Board of

Trustees voted to permit an outside contractor to convert Pollock House into a university inn, stipulating that the original architectural integrity of the building was to be preserved. With great fanfare, ground was broken in 1986 for the \$4.4 million Wick-Pollock Inn.

The original house was reconfigured to contain 15 guest rooms, two dining rooms and a bar/lounge. An additional wing included 16 suites, 49 rooms, a ballroom, five meeting rooms, a kitchen and administrative offices. Operated by a consortium of entrepreneurs under a 40-year lease, the inn was staffed by about 100 persons.

Opening in 1987, the Wick-Pollock proved popular. Its sudden closure in 1999 was unexpected, with employees given only minutes to clear out soon after reporting to work. The building would remain vacant for over a decade.

In 2008, an Archives survey team visited

the inn and found evidence of the staff's hasty departure. The guest register remained on the registration desk. Office items were left undisturbed. In one former staff member's desk drawer, divorce papers were found. Newspapers in the vending machines announced President Bill Clinton's alleged affair with Monica Lewinsky.

In the guest rooms, sheets and blankets covered the beds. It was an eerie experience as the team discussed the possibility of "archiving" the Wick-Pollock espresso machine, one member — a student assistant — disappeared and failed to answer when called. He later turned up in a linen closet, alive and well, engrossed in a box of records.

Unfortunately, the team was unable to liberate the espresso machine. Its fate remains unknown. Even so, the survey proved fruitful; the Inn's files remained intact. While these

contain many letters of praise, there were also complaints.

Most involved faulty communications or problems with the staff. Labor issues were common, made worse when the original manager resigned for medical reasons. One serious incident involved an attempted knife attack upon a member of the kitchen staff by another. In 1992, a tainted Thanksgiving dinner led to several guests falling ill with salmonella food poisoning.

YSU's plans for the building ranged from contracting with a new hotel operator to using the Inn for hospitality management education. For a time, the Inn was even utilized by the Youngstown State University Police Department for domestic disturbance training. In 2012, after being remodeled through private funding, Pollock House became the official home of the YSU president.



# THE SALINE SIDE EFFECTS OF WINTER

Photo by **J. Harvard Feldhouse /The Jambar**

## **J. HARVARD FELDHOUSE**

Road salt — it's natural, abundant and effective. However, it's also corrosive and deadly to life in large doses. Although it is an essential tool for snow and ice removal, some people may wonder if salt is used too much?

Sodium chloride, also known as table salt or NaCl, is mainly used because it's cheap and abundant. Michael Serra, associate chemistry professor at Youngstown State University, explained that salt works when dissolved in water, separating the Na and Cl particles.

"When you put salt on the road or on your sidewalks, there is a thin layer of water, and it will actually dissolve a little of that salt," Serra said. "Water usually freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Now water will begin to melt at temperatures pure water normally freezes."

Salt works, so people use it — tons of it.

YSU uses an average of 472 tons of salt annually, according to Dave Ewing, associate director of the grounds department.

According to a November 2018 Vindicator article by Justin Dennis, nearly 19,500 tons of road salt were used in Mahoning County alone by the Ohio Department of Transportation during

the 2017 to 2018 winter season.

When salt water infiltrates fresh water bodies, the animals and vegetations unaccustomed to salt water can die. If it infiltrates human drinking water, the effects can be the same.

Timothy Wagner, chair of the chemistry department, explained salt's deadly potential.

"If you drink too much salt and the concentration of salt in your blood goes up, it draws water out of your cells. Then, you suffer severe dehydration," Wagner said. "If you drink too much salt water, cells die."

A quick Google search can find dozens of articles detailing salt's environmental impact, ranging from government websites to leading scientific publications, as well as university blogs, personal blogs and regular news media sources.

One source, a December 2018 "Scientific American" article by Tim Vernimmen, said salts have significantly infiltrated the drinking water on the East Coast, a huge problem for people on low-salt diets.

Vernimmen also said the corrosive nature of salt draws heavy metals, such as manganese, lead and zinc, into the water. It was the same corrosion that caused the contaminated water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

"Nationwide, salts are crusting the insides of home boilers

and the cooling tanks of power plants. They are also coating the land where crops grow. And they are stressing plants and animals in freshwater ecosystems, in some cases until they disappear," Vernimmen said.

Road salt, and salt in general, negatively affects the environment, but its effectiveness at removing ice and snow and society's need to use the roads in the winter poses a challenge for environmentalists.

However, there are eco-friendly alternatives. Wagner said that many counties in the U.S. have adopted the use of beet juice brine, a mixture of juiced white beets and salt water.

"Beet juice contains a lot of sugar molecules. Those sugar molecules reduce the number of salt ions needed in the solution, because sugar has the same effect as an ion from salt," Wagner said.

The downside is that beet juice is more expensive, which could be a financial issue for road maintenance departments with limited funding.

It may not be possible to completely eliminate salt from use in the U.S., but finding equally effective alternatives that reduce the amount of salt used could be instrumental in stopping water contamination.

# BEING A SUCCESSFUL NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT

## **ANGELICA DIAZ JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR**

Youngstown State University defines a nontraditional student as someone who is 25 years or older, or who is a parent, spouse, full-time employee or caregiver. Active duty servicemembers, Reservists and veterans of the military are also considered nontraditional students.

Tammy Kemble, a 37-year-old junior respiratory therapy major, said she always worked part-time jobs in the restaurant business, as a waitress and cook before she came to YSU.

She said once she got to the university she wanted to be "involved."

"I am an all-or-nothing kind of girl," Kemble said. "I wanted to consider my education, my nine-to-five job. So, I looked for campus employment."

She currently works as an office assistant at YSU and enjoys the benefits that come with the position.

"I come to campus every morning at 8 a.m. and stay till my

last class of the day," Kemble said.

She said she normally stays on campus until about 4 p.m. and is always looking for a corner to study in.

Kemble said she and her fellow classmates help each other.

"We stay after class. We help each other. We do our homework together. We do our study guides together for our test," she said. "Whenever we can, we are always meeting at the respiratory lab and cracking the books."

Kemble said her mother and daughter are her inspiration, and her mother is a hardworking woman who worked many jobs and did the best to provide for her.

"I don't want to say I want to be better than her, but I know she has raised me to be better than her," she said.

Once she graduates she plans to take a break first, then jump into her career field.

Kemble said there are a variety of options in the respiratory field.

"Before I commit to something one hundred percent, I think I am going to exercise my scope of varieties and then decide," she said.

Kemble said once she starts to work in the respiratory field,

she wants to work her way up.

"I am not settling," she said. "I want to be at the top — at my age, like I said, all or nothing. I am going for it all. I am going big."

She advises other nontraditional students to never give up.

"As a nontraditional student life is not easy," Kemble said. "Some days are beautiful and shiny. Sometimes it's stormy, and windy and crazy. Eventually the sun will shine again. Keep at it."

Migdalia McClendon, assistant director for diversity recruitment and admissions, said there are many reasons and motivations for nontraditional student to attend college.

"For some students, it's their own career or personal goals that motivates them," she said. "For others, it's the economy that brings them into our admissions office in Sweeney Hall. When potential students are underemployed, they decide to return to school to get retrained or complete a degree to gain higher wages or salary."

McClendon advises nontraditional students to attend class, study two hours for every hour of class and use a calendar to keep track of assignments, tests and quizzes. She said following these steps will help nontraditional students be successful.



# THE JAMBAR WINS BEST NEWS COVERAGE AT ONMA CONVENTION

The Jambar was honored for having the best news coverage for the 2017-18 academic school year among college newspapers in Ohio.

The award was given by members of the Ohio News Media Association, one of the state's largest and most influential groups of journalists, at its 2019 convention at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris Hotel.

The Collegiate Awards are one of the most rigorous competitions in college journalism because for many of the categories, including Best News Coverage, the judges make their choices based on an entire section of stories such as a news section, instead of a single story or page of stories.

In winning Best News Coverage, The Jambar beat out seven other Ohio universities, including Ohio University and The Ohio State University, both of which have large journalism programs and newspapers.

"It's all about working hard, being fair and telling people what they need to know," said

Dave Davis, journalism lecturer and faculty adviser. "That's what our students do. That's what this shows."

The Jambar winners were:

News Coverage: Morgan Petronelli, Rachel Gobep and Jambar Staff, first place

- **In-Depth Reporting:** Jordan Unger, second place

- **Sports Coverage:** Marc Weems, Jambar Sports Staff, second place

- **Photojournalism:** Tanner Mondok, second place

- **Best Multimedia Package:** Rachel Gobep, third place

Following the awards ceremony and lunch, newly elected Ohio Governor Mike DeWine gave the convention keynote address. The Ohio News Media Association, founded in 1933 and a strong advocate for state open records, represents the state's professional print and digital publications.



Jambar staff receiving ONMA Collegiate Awards included, from left: Morgan Petronelli, Jambar editor-in-chief and senior journalism major; Rachel Gobep, Jambar managing editor and junior journalism, broadcast and digital media track major; Jordan Unger, May 2018 YSU graduate, journalism, production assistant at WKBN; Tanner Mondok, Jambar photo editor and senior journalism major; Not pictured: Marc Weems, former Jambar sports editor and senior journalism major.



It is the Butler Institute of American Art's 100 year anniversary. A woman is pictured above (left) observing a piece of artwork at the institute. Todd Gray's "Flabbergasted" pop geometry piece (right), along with 19 other mixed media wall and floor sculptures will be showcased at the institute until March 3. Photos by **Frances Clause/The Jambar**





# PIZZA WITH THE PROS: SUPER BOWL EDITION

Photo by *Tanner Mondok/The Jambar*

## AMANDA JOERNDT

Michael Stahl, camera operator for ESPN, CBS, FOX and NBC networks, talked with Youngstown State University students about his experience working in several Super Bowls, World Series and NHL games during “Pizza with the Pros.”

“Pizza with the Pros” is an ongoing series through the YSU communication department and aims to give students the opportunity to network with professionals in the media industry.

Stahl has been in the industry for over 25 years as a camera operator for the last five Super Bowl games, three All-Star games, four NBA finals and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony for the Jackson 5.

Stahl started in the radio industry, but quickly realized his passion and talent for operating a camera by operating the jumbotron for minor league hockey games.

According to Stahl, in recent years the Super

Bowl has become a major production with all hands on board.

“Back in the ’90s, they had about 14 camera operators. Today we have about 100. Every job is very important,” he said. “We go from high artist camera operators to just regular stagehands.”

Stahl stressed the importance of networking within the industry.

“Network constantly and always [treat] people with respect,” he said. “You just have to get in there and learn anyway you can. I took initiative, worked hard and took it seriously. There’s always that stress and being able to live with it outside of work.”

He said working the Super Bowl requires a high level of focus.

“Covering games is like playing the sport yourself in a way — being able to get in your head and do your job while staying calm,” he said. “Games are like telling stories and following the story and transitions. That’s what separates the camera operators apart in the industry.”

Stahl has also been camera operator for several halftime performances such as Beyoncé and Prince.

Stahl’s main goal was to inform students about his highlight moments at the Super Bowl games and encourage students to achieve their goals.

“I hope the students learned from me today what the real world is like and there’s not a direct pattern to getting where you want to be,” Stahl said. “There’s nothing fair in the real world and you’re working your way up the ladder.”

Adam Earnhardt, chair of the Department of Communication, started “Pizza with the Pros” to help students become more educated and connected in their field of study and hopes students will attend the sessions to understand the industry better.

Earnhardt said the communications department recently hired Paul Ditchey through the sports broadcasting program, and Ditchey knows many other professionals who have helped “Pizza with the Pros” become a success.

“The biggest thing we want the students to take away from these experiences is knowing that these jobs are out there and this is how we get them,” Earnhardt said. “You hear from us so often, so sometimes you might not give it so much thought, but hearing it from a professional, you give it more credibility.”

Maya Kresic, a junior communications major, attended the session to listen to how Stahl started his career and working with the Super Bowls.

“I’m honestly not a big sports fan so I was really interested in his experiences with filming the halftime shows in the Super Bowl,” she said. “Working with people who have been in the news business was really interesting.”

Kresic said the session informed her on how to start making connections as a college student and getting involved in the field.

“What I learned from his is everything is about connections and having to know people,” she said. “It’s so important to make those connects with getting names and numbers in the field.”



# A TRIPLE THREAT ENTERTAINER

**MARAH J. MORRISON**

Mia Colón does theatre because it is the love of her life. Expected to graduate from Youngstown State University this year with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, Colón said those who go into the arts do not do it for the money, but for enjoyment.

Colón joined a group in her teens known as The Youngstown Connection. As a member of this group, she's enjoyed opportunities to travel the United States, and sing and dance for and with celebrities such as Jodi Benson, the voice of Ariel from "The Little Mermaid," Mac Huff and John Jacobson.

Colón said her goal as of right now is to be a performer for amusement parks and cruise lines. She said from cruise lines, she plans to go to Chicago to build up her resume.

"From Chicago I will go to Florida for Disney World or California, and then from California to Atlanta because I want to get into film as well on top of live theatre," she said. "I do voice over work, modeling, commercials and all kinds of stuff."

Colón said she would also like to get into Netflix series and movies, and eventually go to New York for Broadway by her late 20s or early 30s. She said by then, she should have built up enough of a reputation and resume.

"One thing I've learned in this industry is you can plan as much as you want, but things don't always go according to your goal," she said. "Last August at the end of my contract with Cedar Point, I actually broke my leg during a show."

Colón said breaking her leg was very eye opening to her, and she wasn't fully aware of how many people in her life who truly cared for her. It also taught her a lot about herself and about accepting help as an independent woman.

"It humbled me," she said.

Colón said her biggest influences in the industry include Meryl Streep and Lin-Manuel Miranda because he is Puerto Rican like her. She said it's nice to see another Latinx person in the industry doing what they love and making something of themselves.

"Before Lin-Manuel Miranda, there weren't a lot of roles for Latinx people," she said. "He saw that issue and he fixed it. I really connect with him."

Colón said Sara Bareilles is also another one of her influences because she connects with her and her voice, which she said is similar to her own, and enjoys doing covers of her songs for different auditions.

"I actually didn't start theatre until I was in the fourth grade," she said. "The only reason I got into theatre was because of my choir teacher in grade school."

Colón said her first show she performed in was "Guys and Dolls," which is what she will be in again this year. She said to her, it's kind of like coming full circle in her career.

"It's been 15, 16 years since I did it last and it's nice because it's [the] show I started in," she said. "It's one of my first professional contracts. This will be the third professional contract that I've gotten, but it's nice. It's reminiscent."

Colón said she is not broken and not done. She said she is still moving along and being in "Guys and Dolls" again brings back a lot of memories. And it's very nostalgic for her.

Colón said the industry is individualistic and it's about someone going within themselves, and knowing that this is not going to be easy. She said theatre is hard and cutthroat.

"Research, experience it and take it seriously," she said.

Matthew Mazuroski, the chairperson of and an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at YSU, said he thinks Colón is very talented and outstanding, and said she has the drive, energy and the talent to pursue this as a career.

"I remember her first audition," he said. "She was mesmerizing. She's pursued a lot of opportunities we offer here at YSU."

Mazuroski thinks Colón is an excellent role model for not only YSU students, but for any student who is looking at the entertainment industry.

"I think that she will go far," he said.





Photos by Brianna Gleghorn/The Jambar

# PILGRIMAGE THROUGH ISRAEL

**BRIANNA GLEGHORN**

It all started in 2017. My parents left on a Christian pilgrimage with our church, Bridge of Hope, to Israel. A pilgrimage is when a person or group of people travel to a holy place, depending on the religion, for a spiritual journey.

They were gone for 10 days in the middle of June. While they were gone, they rode camels, were baptized in the Jordan River and even swam in the Dead Sea. I knew after hearing about their experience I had to go.

When I was offered the chance to go on the next trip, I was excited but also nervous because the trip was 10 days long and in the middle of the semester at Youngstown State University. After talking to my adviser, I decided this was an opportunity I could not pass up.

Our flight left on Feb. 4 and was 10 hours long. Since I had never been on an airplane before, I wasn't sure what to expect. With the long flight and seven-hour time difference, we arrived on Feb. 5 and immediately started touring sites.

Pastor Doug Reed of Bridge of Hope Church had been to Israel two times prior to this trip. This time he was able to bring his wife and mother.

"My wife and mom being here is special," he said. "After I came to Israel for the first time, I left knowing I had to tell others and bring others."

Many of the sites our group saw can be found in the Bible and in the history of Israel. A lot of history in Israel can be traced in the Bible, especially in the first five books: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

"I believe everyone should go to Israel at least once in their life," Reed said. "The best reason to come to Israel and in particular Jerusalem, is by doing so you fulfill prophecy that is 2,500 years

old. You can literally write your name in the book. Zachariah 8:20-22 speaks about people from 'strong nations' asking people to go to Jerusalem together to seek the Lord there."

While on the trip, I heard several people say their favorite part was watching what they read in their Bible come to life right in front of them and see where certain events happened.

"When else do you have a chance to step onto the pages of the scriptures?" Reed said.

Rabbi Pesach Wolicki, associate director at Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation, visited our group and spoke about the meaning of the word holy and talked to us about Israel.

"Your biblical vision expands when you visit Israel," Wolicki said.

Evangelist Jermel Mayo has been to Israel one other time prior to this trip with his wife, and said a religious pilgrimage is important because it brings more clarity and fulfillment to someone's faith.

"You get to go back to the beginning of how things were started. [It] helps you to learn about the origin of your faith and how it developed over the years," he said.

When Mayo and his wife got back from their trip, they knew they had to share their experience with others. He said they were impressed two years ago on their visit, and they knew they were responsible for passing on this heritage.

"We wanted our girls and other children to have an opportunity of coming to Israel so that it can impact their faith the same way it impacted us," he said.

Mayo and his wife were able to bring their daughters to Israel and have enjoyed every minute. He said they were called to tell the next generation, and they pass it on.

"It has been awesome seeing them walk the streets and seeing

all the sites," he said. "[I'm] hoping that they will remember this for the rest of their lives, but that they too will bring their children when they get married."

Our tour guide, Yuval Harat, was one of the first soldiers to reach the walls of Jerusalem in 1967 during the Six Day War and also the same tour guide my parents had in 2017.

"We walked through the Lion's Gate, ran across the Temple Mount to the far end, went down the stairs and came to the [Western Wall]," Harat said. "This was probably the most exciting moment for everybody in this war when they announced on the Israeli radio that the Temple Mount is in our hands."

I noticed there was a large number of tourist groups. The groups were people from all around the world like South Korea, Nigeria and even Toledo, Ohio.

One of the sites we visited was Temple Mount. This is a religious site for Christians, Jews and Muslims. Only Muslims are allowed to pray on the Temple Mount, and if anyone else is seen praying they will be arrested.

I was wearing a pair of leggings when we visited Temple Mount, so I was given a skirt to put on that was to my ankles because modest attire is required there.

This experience in Israel has helped me not only grow in my faith, but in my understanding of the world. Not being able to pray on Temple Mount left me with a feeling I had never experienced in the U.S. — a lack of freedom.

It leaves me with sadness that Jews cannot go to a holy place such as Temple Mount to pray and are limited to the Western Wall.

Never having been in another country before, I hadn't realized how different the two cultures were. My eyes have not only been opened spiritually, but in a more metaphorical sense when looking at the world.





Photo by J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar

# SILENCE AT THE DISCO

## VICTORIA REMLEY

Youngstown State University students raved in silence on Feb. 8 in the Ohio Room. The Silent Rave was hosted by Kilcawley's Housing and Residence Life.

Malik Montgomery, a freshman vocal performance and music technology major, said he enjoyed the event because he is a fan of music.

"This [was] dope," he said. "I mean, I like to dance. I'm a music dude. So, I feel like this is one of the best events they have."

Montgomery and his friend came to the Silent Rave because he had so much fun at the Silent Disco last semester.

"Last semester, I was wildin' out there," he said.

Gary Reynolds Jr., a DJ at the Silent Rave and graduate of

YSU, thought DJing the rave was extremely weird, and as a DJ, they normally hear everything.

Reynolds Jr. got his start DJing by bringing speakers to a friend's party. From there, his role as a DJ took shape.

"To hear the words of the actual songs and the people singing was definitely a different experience," he said. "Also, it was funny when people thought they knew the words and they really didn't."

During the rave, another DJ's flow included EDM music and the other produced music from a top 10 station.

Lincoln Williams, the graduate assistant for the Housing and Residence Life and a student affairs major, said a Silent Rave is a successful event that campuses have with other campus areas. He said a Silent Rave allows students to connect to each other through seeing people dancing to music they are possibly listening to.

"That's going to create some conversations in the community.

Music is the universal language, so it brings people together," Williams said.

Williams brought the idea of silent DJing to Reynolds Jr., and it was music to Reynold Jr.'s ears.

They decided what music Reynolds Jr. and Brandon Martin, a DJ who goes by the stage name of Dr. Goo, would play.

Reynolds Jr. DJs most of the residential events and student activity events, and works at every Penguin Nights and during some Welcome Week activities.

"I love doing pretty much any event where I can get behind the turntables and DJ. No matter how small, how big or how different it is, I always take it as a great opportunity," he said.

Rebecca Banks, a master's student in American studies, loved the Silent Rave, and said she looked forward to it all week.

"I love dancing. I love music and this [was] so cool," she said.

# MARIO'S MOVIES: 'VELVET BUZZSAW'

## MARIO RICCIARDI

There are two categories in life that I find difficult to look away from: the excessively beautiful and the excessively gruesome. The new Netflix Original "Velvet Buzzsaw" features both. Apart from Jake Gyllenhaal's performance, not being able to look away is the only reason I kept watching. With a plot that frequently falls short of its potential, the story about the world of elite art critics invites more camp than craft.

The film reunites "Nightcrawler" director Dan Gilroy with Gyllenhaal. Although marketed as the main character, Gyllenhaal's character, Morf Vandewalt, serves no more of a supporting role than the entire cast of supporting roles. The film's main character? The pretentious, highly competitive, highly profitable art world.

A guilty pleasure art critic parody full of Dickensian names and elaborate attitudes, it takes its time to turn into the violent old school horror movie the trailers promise.

Once the aspiring art curator, Josephina, discovers the body of dead painter, Ventril Dease, in her apartment building, the film I had originally sat down for begins to take place. Josephina steals Dease's work and delivers them to her boss, Rhodora Haze. The work turns out to be a big hit. People love it, people are paying top dollar for it, but most relevantly, people are dying for it.

We soon discover that Dease used bodily tissues and fluids to create his works and that his paintings are possessed by evil spirits. Dease's last wishes were in fact to have all his art burned. Unfortunately, these art critics prioritize their own narrow self-interests over wishes of the deceased.

Just about every character in the film ends up paying for their insolence, and since everyone is so unlikeable, it doesn't feel as senseless as it actually is. Side thought, am I considered an art critic? Maybe I should be reevaluating myself too. Not a single person in the film is likable. That said, their lack of appeal is why the film hits the final notes it goes after.

Gyllenhaal is a genius in the film. So much so that he earned a penguin in my review all by himself. The comedy is funny and the

horror feels almost justified. The film has plenty to look at, but as a whole never transcends the art displayed in the film. Pieces of which, are a satirically good statement on today's modern art.

"Velvet Buzzsaw" juxtaposes beautiful artwork with gruesome deaths. The film mirrors the vibrance of cities like Miami and Los Angeles with the pulpy darkness of a seedy, double-crossing art world.

The film displays moments of hedonistic pleasure with hedonistic pain. With all of the contrast, the film ultimately cannot surface a message worth telling. The film clearly sets out to be a piece of art worthy of the scene it represents, but unfortunately it is not much more than a campy, quirky, empty horror flick.

🐧🐧🐧 2/5 Penguins

And remember, one of those is Jake's.



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# THE JAMBAR

## EDITORIAL

### ARE YSU PROFESSOR'S ATTENDANCE POLICIES TOO STRICT?

You wake up with your alarm blaring in your ear. After wrestling with the covers for a minute, you manage to stumble out of bed, but as soon as your feet hit the floor, you can feel your stomach churning.

You're sick.

While you're hurling over the toilet saying hello again to last night's dinner, your mind starts racing trying to figure out how you will get anything done for the day if you're stuck in the bathroom.

Eventually, your mind and body will come to an agreement to stay home from class.

So, what now?

You email your professor that you will miss. Their response is that according to their attendance policy, you will need a doctor's excuse in order for your absence to be excused.

You begin to become frustrated because you just remembered both of your parents lost their jobs a few months back and currently don't have access to health insurance to cover a doctor's visit.

You decide to take the loss and not go to the doctor for a simple stomach flu and just take an unexcused absence due to the

potential cost the doctor's office could charge.

Unfortunately, this is the harsh reality for some students at YSU.

According to YSU policy, "The instructor... has the prerogative of determining the relationship between class attendance, achievement and course grades, and the responsibility for communicating the relationship to the students at the beginning of each term."

A majority of attendance policies implemented by professors require a legitimate excuse for an absence such as a doctor's note for a medical absence or an obituary for the absence due to the loss of a loved one.

According to a study conducted by AgileHealthInsurance.com, researchers found that "70 percent of college students and recent graduates reported having difficulty finding affordable insurance coverage." Some students might not have access to health care or insurance to cover the visit.

By requiring a doctor's note, the university and staff are causing students to have a non-reporting failure in a course or attend class while sick and run the risk of infecting those around them.

Neither decision is a viable option for students who struggle to pay for everyday expenses on top of tuition.

In addition, a common issue nontraditional students face is finding a caretaker during class for their child or loved one who they regularly take care of. If something happens and the student

must stay home to take care of someone, then according to some professors' policies, that is considered an unexcused absence.

Sometimes, students can't help that they miss so much. Whether it comes to taking care of someone or suffering from a chronic medical issue, they have the risk of failing classes due to absences that are considered "illegitimate."

While these policies make sense in order to encourage students to miss class less due to illegitimate reasons, they are also discriminatory towards students who are living in poverty or who are nontraditional.

By making the attendance policy less strict, YSU would decrease the spread of viruses and diseases due to sick students attending class, and improve the mental health of those who might need to take a simple mental health day during the semester.

Students with chronic illnesses or disabilities can register with Disability Services to avoid being penalized for absences, but that doesn't help students who suffer from an occasional cold or flu.

Whether students attend class or not, YSU still receives their money.

For those who do not have access to health care, the Mercy Health Student Health Center is open to students who need medical attention provided by Wick Primary Care. These services are free. Appointments can be made Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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### SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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**THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE IS ONLINE ONLY. CHECK NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR NEW PUZZLE .**





# FOLLOWING WINLESS START, SOFTBALL LOOKING FORWARD TO WEEK OFF

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

## JOSHUA FITCH

Over the next week, the Youngstown State University softball team aims to regroup at practice following a winless start through four games of the 2019 season.

Following losses to East Carolina University, 11-4, Towson University, 8-0, Miami University, 6-0 and most recently the University of South Carolina Upstate, 2-1, the Penguins are looking forward to getting back on the practice field to make adjustments before hitting the road again next week.

Tatum Christy, a junior sports broadcasting major who plays second base for the Penguins, says the rough start to the season is very eye opening.

"We knew that we would struggle in some aspects of the game, but so much this early has been hard," Christy said. "Our mindset hasn't changed but it has motivated us a little bit more and now we realize where we need to be. We need to have a different mindset during practice and work harder off the field rather than just having that mindset during gametime."

While the eye-opening start to the season has motivated the Penguins, the team won't get the advantage of playing at home for another month. A total of 22 games will take place before the team's home opener against Kent State University on March 20.

Brian Campbell, manager of the Penguins, said while the first leg of the road trip resulted in no wins, there are now learning experiences the team can build and improve on.

"We left some baserunners on in the first few games, but what I think it comes down to is just the experience right now. We have to build on things," Campbell said. "When you have 12 kids that are freshman and sophomores, it's their first opportunities really."

Bright spots from the first four games of the season were sophomore Nikki Saibene who scored a run in the season-opener against East Carolina and junior Elizabeth Birkbeck who had two RBIs.

With a week back inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site for improvements, the Penguins can focus on what needs the most improvement. After a game in which the Penguins didn't record a hit against USC Upstate, batting will be at the forefront.

"It gives us a chance to work and break things

down a little bit. It's something that we've done in the last few years to work on things and improve. Better at-bats and being a little bit more disciplined as hitter," Campbell said, regarding the key to getting the Penguins' first win of the year.

YSU will travel south once again for a three-day, five-game stretch starting with a doubleheader against the Winthrop University Eagles followed by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on Feb. 22.

"It can definitely be difficult [playing on the road], but at the same time, having such a rough week, that was the push we needed and I think we'll be good from here on out," Christy said.

Coach Campbell added that it's a long season for a reason, and the Penguins will remain tough during their toughest stretch of the season.

# NEW COACH BRINGS NEW LIFE TO BOWLING TEAM

## DOM JOSEPH

The Youngstown State University bowling team has brought on Doug Kuberski as the new head coach for the Penguins. Kuberski, a native of Pittsburgh, graduated from the University of Nebraska in 2003.

Kuberski's coaching experience began in 2008, at Texas A&M University, where he led the Aggies to the Big XII Championship Tournament. Following his time at Texas A&M, he moved to Arkansas State University as an assistant. He then became the interim coach for the Red Wolves and led them to the NCAA National Championship Tournament.

Kuberski moved on to Iowa Western Community College, where he started the bowling program from the ground up. YSU hired Kuberski in December 2018 to take over the Penguins.

"The commitment to the team and the program from the administration impressed me," Kuberski said. "Looking at the job, it all fit to me so it was a no-brainer."

As he adjusts to the Penguins program, the team has welcomed him with open arms. Along with that, they've soaked in as much intelligence as they can since Kuberski joined the team.

Junior Rachel Darrow said the team has learned a lot from Kuberski.

"He's taught me that it's okay to have a bad shot. One bad shot is not going to define the entire game," Darrow said.

Sophomore Emma Dockery said she picks up little things from the new coach.

"You'll come in and pick things up throughout the day, and realize it's only getting easier," Dockery said.

Kuberski said the team is easy to coach.

"I let them do their thing during practice and during tournaments. I only intervene when I feel I have to, but they're pretty darn smart," he said. "It's been flowing like a symphony."

While the process of joining the new team has been rather painless for Kuberski, there is always room for improvement in his eyes.

"We've got some kinks to work out still," he said. "I'm still new, but it's been pretty free flowing so far."

Bowling may appear simple, but there is a lot of detail involved that Kuberski analyzes deeply.

"It's more a process," Kuberski said. "I just try to keep them focused on what to do in terms of making shots, alignments, ball choice — those kind of things. I keep it simple. I don't worry

about the score."

For the players, Kuberski is always helping them during the tournament in terms of adjustments.

"Every shot, there's communication," Dockery said. "He's helped us realize that it's up to us to make a great shot, and it's up to him to help us pick up every pin."

The Penguins have a clear goal for the 2019 season. Go deep in conference and finish high overall.

"Overall, this year we want to get to the top 15," Dockery said. "We want to go deep in conference, which is doable. There's no reason why we shouldn't be top 15."

Kuberski has an even clearer goal: to get better every match.

"We're looking to elevate each time out," Kuberski said. "I think we're on our way, we can go deep. We've shown we can hang with the big teams. We've got work to do, but we want to continue to elevate."

The Penguins' season began Feb. 8 at the Sunshine State Winter Classic in Orlando, Florida. YSU captured two victories and placed 10th overall. YSU won't compete again until Friday March 1, at the Hawk Flight Invite in New Jersey.





Photo by Brent Bigelow/The Jambar

## YSU FOOTBALL ADDS PLENTY OF LOCAL TALENT ON SIGNING DAY

### BRIAN YAUGER

The Youngstown State University football team added over 20 players, counting walk-ons, on National Signing Day. Quite a few are coming from Mahoning Valley high schools.

Mark Waid, the standout quarterback from right up Route 422 in Girard, has been talked about a lot and for good reason. In his senior year, Waid threw for 3299 yards, 39 touchdowns and led his team to the State Championship game, where they fell to Wyoming High School.

There's a chance Waid winds up starting under center this year. He'll at least be given the chance. Penguins coach Bo Pelini isn't worried as much about the physical side of the game as he is the mental side. The transition for a true freshman at the quarterback position is far more difficult than other positions.

"The physical part of it isn't [going to be as

difficult] because we're not going to hit our quarterback in the spring," Pelini said. "He's going to get a jump on the mental side of things [playing in the spring]. He's going to get 15 practices, 30 meetings... It's a lot of time where he can get a chance to learn. That's going to be a good jump as far as him being able to compete in the fall."

The Penguins also added Troy Jakubec from Warren G. Harding High School. He committed to YSU before the New England Patriots were crowned Super Bowl Champions, but seeing former Penguins make the biggest stage in the football world had an influence on his decision.

"That plays a big role because that's — everybody's dream is going to the NFL, and when you see people coming out of YSU and making it to the Super Bowl, winning Super Bowl rings and stuff, it plays a big role," Jakubec told the Tribune Chronicle last week.

In addition to Waid and Jakubec, the Penguins also added two defensive ends from Youngstown. The team brought in Cardinal Mooney High School's Cheriff Jamison, a 6-foot-4-inch, 230-pound defensive end and Youngstown East High School's Chris Fitzgerald, a 6-foot, 280-pound defensive tackle.

Multiple area players also are joining the YSU squad as walk-ons. Skill position players Alex Cintron and Josh Celli of McDonald, Isaac Hadley of Warren John F. Kennedy, Lakeview's Tony Crish and Valley Christian's Jordan Trowers. The Penguins also added linemen Terrance Yeboah of Youngstown East and Jarod Tincher of Canfield High School.

Coming in as a transfer is lineman Matt Jones, a 2015 graduate of Hubbard High School where he was ranked as the top guard in Ohio. Jones is coming in from West Virginia University where he was the starting center for two seasons.

Jones is most excited to come back home and have some local Youngstown food again.

"In order to perform at my highest level. I have to be my best self, and I truly believe that I am my best when I am home," Jones said. "I can't wait to be able to perform in front of friends and family, play for my hometown and eat lots of Youngstown pizza."

YSU added another kicker Colten McFadden, a transfer from Kent State University who graduated from Poland High School. McFadden will be the third in his family to kick for the Penguins. His brother Connor kicked for the Penguins until 2017 and his father Paul kicked for YSU before seeing significant time with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

The Penguins kick off their season Aug. 24 against Samford University in the Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff game in Montgomery, Alabama.

## CHAD ZALLOW TAKES THIRD IN PRESTIGIOUS MILLROSE GAMES

### ROBERT HAYES

Chad Zallow represented Youngstown State University by taking third place with a time of 7.69 seconds in the Fred Schmetz 60-meter hurdle at the Millrose Games on Feb. 9.

Zallow competed against runners from all over the United States and Canada, and placed above Johnathan Cabral, a former Olympian for Canada. The winning time of 7.61 seconds

was run by Devon Allen, a former member of the United States Olympic team.

The Millrose Games is a historic track and field event that is held in New York City every February. The event dates back to 1908 when employees of the John Wanamaker Department Store started the Millrose Athletic Association, a recreational athletic club.

From 1914 to 2011 the games used to be held at the historic Madison Square Garden. They are currently at the Fort Washington Avenue

Armory, which is the former home of the 22nd Regiment of the Army Corps of Engineers.

A few of the indoor track and field records at YSU are held by Zallow, including the best time for the 60-meter dash (6.72 seconds) and the 60-meter hurdles (7.61 seconds). He broke the 60-meter dash record earlier this season at YSU's Watson and Tressel Training Site.


Chad Zallow's older brother Carl Zallow was also a member of YSU's track and field team, who won a few events himself during his tenure

with the Penguins before graduating this past spring. Both brothers had excellent careers in high school at Warren John F. Kennedy.

YSU's track and field program has had great success over the past several years. Both the men's and women's indoor teams are defending Horizon League Champions.

YSU will be hosting the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships on Feb. 23 and 24 at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.





# PENGUINS LOOK TO SWING FOR THE FENCES AS BASEBALL SEASON BEGINS

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

**BRIAN YAUGER**  
**MICHAEL EVANKO**

Despite being picked to finish in fourth in the Horizon League this season, the rankings make no difference for the Youngstown State University baseball team as they head into the 2019 season.

“My first season we were picked to finish last, last year we were picked to finish fifth,” Penguins coach Dan Bertolini said. “It shows some steady improvement and respect around the league, but that’s a preseason poll. Our goal is to finish first and make a run in the postseason. Whether we like the rankings or we don’t, at the end of the day we just have to go out and play baseball.”

YSU finished last season 18-38, but according to Bertolini, last season gave the team some blocks to build on for this season.

“I think it [last season] provided us a good base for this year,” Bertolini said. “We had a lot of young players last year. I think we did some really good things that don’t necessarily show wins and losses. We set records, we had lots of guys go All-Conference and get postseason recognition, we won a game in the Horizon League tournament for the first time since 2014, so that was big. I think it was a good building block for us.”

The youth of the Penguins is not something that can be

understated. RHP Travis Perry was projected to be the Horizon League Freshman of the Year by D1Baseball.com. The mound is where a majority of the youth lies, with the pitching staff consisting of mainly freshmen and sophomores.

Kip DeShields, a West Branch graduate and one of the few seniors on the team, provides experience to the young pitching staff. That experience and guidance isn’t just helping the youth. It’s helping DeShields in his post-graduation pursuits.

“I took some of the younger guys under my shoulder,” DeShields said. “Just to show them what Division I baseball is all about. I’ve been around baseball for a while now. I’ve taken [Colin] Clark under my shoulder, he’s learned a lot. It’s a good thing to pass on knowledge to the younger guys and that’s what I want to do, I want to become a coach.”

Jeff Wehler is the Penguins utility infielder. His freshman season was hopefully a sign for things to come. As a freshman he played in 53 games, starting in 52 of them. The majority of his starts came at shortstop and first base.

Last season, Wehler was named to the All-Horizon League Second-Team and to the Horizon League’s All-Freshman Team, the right-handed shortstop batted third in the lineup for the Penguins, batting .241 and was tied for first with 13 doubles.

He was also second in stolen bases with 25, and had a 17-

game on-base streak during the season, a staple of consistency. With a year under his belt, expect Wehler to make a jump in his sophomore season.

Junior Blaze Glenn was ranked as one of the top prospects in the upcoming MLB Draft by D1Baseball. Glenn was the seventh ranked Horizon League prospect and 56th ranked hitter in the country. He received Second Team All-Horizon League honoree last season and ranked in the top 10 of the conference in nine different offensive statistical categories.

Glenn hit .325 with 11 home runs and 43 RBIs while going a perfect 16-for-16 in stolen base attempts. The Toronto, Ohio, native added a .558 slugging percentage, a .445 on-base percentage, 34 runs scored, 110 total bases and 39 walks.

“I feel like our team is gelling together and we’re ready to go,” Glenn said. “We’re heading down to Mississippi State, they have a new field and they’re expecting a sell out. This should be good right off the bat to get some good competition and see what we can prove.”

The Penguins open their season on Friday with a three-game series against Mississippi State University. YSU will not have their first home game until late March when they’ll face off against Oakland University.

## TRACK AND FIELD COMPETES AT KENT STATE

**ROBERT HAYES**

The Youngstown State University track and field team participated in the Kent State Doug Raymond Qualifier at the Kent State Field House on Feb. 9.

The Penguins did well in the women’s high jump, with senior Abby Jones taking first place with a height of 1.73 meters, and freshman Olivia Jones tying for third place with 1.63 meters. Sophomore Kira Neef came in 13th at 1.58 meters.

Junior Jaliyah Elliott took first in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.36 seconds, a mark that set a new facility record at Kent State

University. Freshman Suerethia Henderson also made it to the finals in the event and ran a time of 7.68 seconds.

The women’s 4x100 relay team, consisting of Alison Green, Iva Domitrovich, Elliott and Henderson, ran their best time so far this season — 3:55.28. Senior Jennifer Muhlenkamp set a new personal best in the 3000-meter run with a time of 10:15:42, 10th all-time in school history.

Two YSU women’s pole vaulters tie for second place in the unseeded round, with seniors Shelby Marken and Caitlyn Trebella posting a height of 3.53 meters. Sophomore Nicole Squatrito placed fifth in the 1-mile run with a time of 5:01.24, which is the third best

time in YSU’s history.

It was a great afternoon for sophomore Kaitlyn Merwin, who placed fifth overall in the shotput and set a new personal best with a distance of 14.83 meters. The Penguins took third in the women’s triple jump after junior Chontel Fils jumped a distance 12.15 meters.

On the men’s side, freshman Terron Taylor came in second in the men’s high jump with a height of 1.99 meters. Senior Dom Westbay placed third in the shotput after having a distance of 17.06 meters.

Two Penguins made it to the finals in the 60-meter dash, with junior Josh Beaumont finishing fifth overall with a time of 6.98 seconds and freshman Jamynk Jackson finishing

right behind him in sixth place with a time of 7.00 seconds. Freshman Cole Smith had a time of 8.24 seconds in the 60-meter hurdle, which was sixth place overall in the afternoon.

Freshman Ethan Sparks finished fifth overall in the 5000-meter while posting a mark of 15:19.30. Keeping with the distance runners, freshman Chris Butler ran a time of 4:17.31 in the 1-mile run, which allowed him to take sixth overall in the event.

YSU’s next track meet is at Akron on Feb. 15, as they take part in the Akron Zips Invitational. The Penguins next home meet is the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships. The league meet on Feb. 23 and 24 at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.





# CAN'T KNOCK THE HUSTLE: PETERS SHOWS HER STUFF IN SOPHOMORE SEASON

Photo courtesy of *YSU Sports Information*

## BRIAN YAUGER

“I got hustle though, ambition flow inside my DNA.”

There’s no better way to describe the game of McKenah Peters, guard for the Youngstown State University women’s basketball team, than this Kendrick Lamar lyric. Hustle is a key part of her game, a trait that came from her parents.

“My parents have always told me to work harder than everyone else, ever since I started sports,” Peters said. “Actually, I have it tattooed on my body in my mom’s handwriting. That’s just like a huge saying that my parents have ingrained in my brain. I just take pride in my work ethic, and I do my best to work hard out there and outwork the opponent.”

Her love of basketball also came from her parents, who played the game, too. The sport has been a constant in her life from early memories of watching her sister to beginning to play herself.

“My older sister played basketball, and both my parents started varsity as freshmen and throughout high school,” Peters said. “I just really started loving the game ever since I started watching it, either on TV or when my sister was playing. I’ve been playing since like second grade.”

Peters has had a breakout year on both sides of the ball in her sophomore season, nearly doubling her points-per-game total from her freshman year. She’s averaging 8.9 points-per-game and reached her career high of 18 points last month in the game against Northern Kentucky University.

In addition to her scoring efforts, Peters has been given high praise from her teammates and coaches, who have said she deserves a nod to the All-Defense Horizon League squad. Peters is proud of that, but would rather praise her coaches and teammates.

“Yeah that’s pretty awesome,” Peters said. “I just give credit to coach [John] Barnes for believing in me and letting me be that person to guard the best players on the other teams and I just love to help my teammates in any way possible and just have fun with it.”

Peters’ defense has been stellar to watch. So much, that it may

surprise readers to know that she hasn’t been a primary defender for long. In fact, in high school she says she didn’t play much defense.

“Now that I’ve been in college I definitely respect the defensive side of the game so much more,” Peters said. “In high school, I honestly did not play defense like I do here now, but once I got here I actually learned the mechanics of it and really take pride in defense now, and that’s probably one of my favorite parts of the game getting a stop and helping my teammates.”

Peters attended Keystone High School in her hometown of LaGrange, Ohio, which is where she won the Lorain County Miss Basketball Award her senior year. Funny enough, winning the Mr. Basketball award that same year was YSU men’s basketball star Naz Bohannon.

The two were aware of each other in high school, but grew close after both came to campus. That friendship has caused Peters to follow the men’s team quite closely, even to the point of asking for score updates after postgame press conferences.

“I’m best friends with two of the guys, Garrett Covington and Naz Bohannon ... I just love to support their team and I love to see them win,” she said.

Speaking of following, Peters’ parents attend every game, making the drive in from the Cleveland area. They are even there for quite a few of the men’s games, seated in the same spot every night, right behind the press table.

“We’re just a huge basketball family,” Peters said. “So, having them support me every single game even on the road — they’ve only missed one game ... having their support means everything to me. They’re my biggest fans and I couldn’t do it without them.”

Growing up in the Cleveland area, Peters, in her words was “obviously” fan of LeBron James. It’s not just James though, Peters has a few more players she’s been a fan of throughout the years.

“I really respect Kyrie [Irving], he’s amazing. Maya Moore, Skylar Diggins was probably one of my favorites to watch at Notre Dame, she was pretty amazing,” she said.

When asked if she modeled her game after any of those players or any players period, Peters denied it. Explaining the style of her

game quite simply.

“Not really,” Peters said. “I just go out there and work as hard as I can just to help my teammates in any way possible.”

Helping fellow athletes is a pursuit Peters aims to accomplish with her degree. Peters is a psychology major with a minor in coaching. She looks to study sports psychology in graduate school.

“I’d really like to get into sports psychology and study that more for my master’s degree,” Peters said. “Possibly become a GA somewhere, still stay involved in basketball as much as I can because I love the game so much. I’d love to help student athletes with the psychological part of the game.”

Music is a pregame staple for Peters, who also enjoys a rest before games. As for what type of music she listens to, it all depends on her mood.

“I listen to music, relax, take a pregame nap,” Peters said. “I do that every game. That’s important, but I put in my music. It depends on how I’m feeling that day, sometimes it’s slow R&B and sometimes it’s pop.”

When she’s off the court, Peters likes to return home and spend time with her family. Basketball is never too far from her mind, and when she’s not at home or with the team, she’s usually with some of the other Penguins.

“I’m a big family person,” Peters said. “I only live an hour and a half away so as much as I can, I go home and spend time with my family. When I’m here I pretty much just relax, hang out with Naz [Bohannon] and Garrett [Covington]. That’s pretty much all I do.”

Being able to go home was a huge reason as to why she attended YSU, but having her family close to home is probably the biggest.

“I’m a homebody. My parents can make it to every game, even on a school night. That was huge, having my supporting cast to be able to follow me throughout my career,” Peters said.

From her hustle, to her family ties, it’s safe to say that basketball is in her DNA.