

# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

 YSU\_JAMBAR

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 THEJAMBAR.COM



## A GATEWAY TO YSU



Eastern Gateway's downtown Youngstown location.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

# YSU to aid Eastern Gateway students, open new campus

By Nicholas Bianco  
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's board of trustees unanimously approved a resolution March 7 to expand YSU's academic opportunities to Eastern Gateway Community College students.

The resolution comes after Eastern Gateway announced Feb. 22 it will pause enrollment and not offer classes and academic programs after spring 2024.

Michael Peterson, chair of the board of trustees, said the resolution will allow YSU to help Eastern Gateway students complete their higher education

journeys.

"We're working closely with EGCC's leadership, with the Ohio Department of Higher Education to optimize a seamless continuation pathway to degree completion for the EGCC students," Peterson said. "We're also working to assure that we have the appropriate associate's degrees available at YSU."

Youngstown State is working with the Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission to expand the university's degree offerings to Eastern Gateway students.

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# Meet the first lady of YSU

By Madeline Hippeard  
Jambar Contributor

The Jambar met with Youngstown State University's first lady LeeAnn Johnson to learn about her and what she has planned for the university.

Before becoming the first lady of Youngstown State, LeeAnn worked as a dental hygienist for 30 years.

During that time, LeeAnn said she was active in the Youngstown community through memberships in different philanthropic groups, such as the Poland Junior Women's Club and the Canfield Welcome Wagon.

Now serving YSU's community as first lady, LeeAnn said it's important she interacts and builds relationships with the university's students.

"I have been volunteering at different capacities for a long time, but this opportunity to be around the students and pour into their lives is so exciting to me," LeeAnn said.

For LeeAnn, the first weeks at Youngstown State were more busy for her husband, President Bill Johnson, but now that she has settled in, things have begun to pick up.

LeeAnn has been meeting with academic departments and programs to learn more about what they offer and how she can be involved with each one. Although she doesn't have specific plans to work with YSU's dental hygiene program, LeeAnn said it offers great healthcare resources for students.

"It's an amazing clinic," LeeAnn said. "It's pro bono, you don't have to pay for the services. I would encourage everyone to go visit the Youngstown State dental hygiene program."

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**Eastern Gateway**

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YSU President Bill Johnson said the university is uniquely positioned to help Eastern Gateway students in these unfortunate circumstances.

“It’s in the best interest of the students to be able to continue their education, to graduate this spring,” Johnson said. “Those that were scheduled to graduate, and then for those that want to continue their path for higher education, [YSU will] offer programs that can do that.”

Johnson announced a plan to establish a YSU campus in Steubenville at the Jefferson County & Educational Service Center’s meeting of Superintendents, ac-

ording to a March 1 press release.

Eastern Gateway’s main campus is located in Steubenville.

According to the release, the YSU Steubenville campus will extend the university’s educational offerings to students beyond the Mahoning Valley.

“Everything from certificates and associate’s degrees to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees will be available both in-person and online, catering to the diverse needs of students throughout the region,” the release stated.

The release also stated YSU will facilitate student enrollment and assure the transition of “College Credit Plus (CCP) programs from Eastern Gateway to YSU.”

Johnson said the Steubenville branch

will be a great opportunity for both YSU and Eastern Gateway.

“We’re also going to be able to fill the void and employ some of the faculty and staff that otherwise would be let go down in Steubenville,” Johnson said.

By extending resources to Eastern Gateway students, Johnson said the campus will strengthen its brand beyond Youngstown.

“When you talk about student experience, when you’re talking about taking care of the education needs of the students of our region — this is a golden opportunity for Youngstown State to show the world this is why we are who we are,” Johnson said.



The board of trustees met March 7 and passed a resolution to aid Eastern Gateway students. Photo by Nicholas Bianco / Jambar Contributor

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**7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

High: 73°F	High: 55°F	High: 57°F	High: 48°F	High: 36°F	High: 37°F	High: 43°F
Low: 50°F	Low: 34°F	Low: 38°F	Low: 31°F	Low: 29°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 31°F
Chance of precip: 80%	Chance of precip: 84%	Chance of precip: 7%	Chance of precip: 85%	Chance of precip: 60%	Chance of precip: 23%	Chance of precip: 4%



Sunny / Rain



Rain



A Few Clouds



Rain



Snow



Mostly Cloudy



A Few Clouds

Information courtesy of [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)

## QUANTITY OVER QUALITY

# Renowned media professional speaks at YSU

By Matthew Sotlar  
The Jambar

An award-winning media professional spoke at Stambaugh Auditorium on March 11 as part of the Marguerite Thomas Colloquium Lecture series.

Ben Sherwood, journalist and former leader at prominent television companies, discussed the topic of free enterprise.

Sherwood was previously the president of Disney-ABC Television Group from 2010 to 2015. He is also the author of the novel "The Life and Death of Charlie St. Cloud," which was made into a feature film in 2010.

A self-professed "history buff," Sherwood began his presentation by highlighting the historical achievements of Youngstown residents, including Ernest Carroll Moore, the co-founder of University of California, Los Angeles; and Harry, Albert, Sam and Jack Warner, the founders of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

On the topic of perspectives, Sherwood asked the audience to reimagine the iconic painting "American Gothic," which shows a farmer holding a pitchfork. These differing perspectives, Sherwood said, allow for positive change.

"What is the farmer with a pitchfork?" Sherwood said.

"It's just a dreamer from Youngstown with a motion picture projector, a dreamer in Burbank, California with a mouse. That's David with a slingshot. Farmers with pitchforks don't play by the rules. The Warner brothers [and] Walt Disney didn't play by the established rules."

In addition to perspectives, Sherwood discussed asymmetric conflict. He provided a graph showing historical conflicts with a power imbalance of 10-1, the weaker side falling under the "unconventional warfare" category.

"In asymmetric unconventional warfare, the weaker side won 63.6% of the time," Sherwood said. "Outnumbered 10-1, the weaker side didn't do what was expected. They pursued an unconventional or insurgent strategy and prevailed almost two-thirds of the time."

Sherwood said strategizing and planning can help people succeed in the real world.

"Strategy and being unexpected and unconventional actually counts more in asymmetric conflict. Just because the odds are stacked against you, you still have a shot at winning if you have a superior strategy," Sherwood said.

When discussing success, Sherwood said quantity is more important than quality.

"Science tells us that the strongest correlation in the

quality of ideas is actually the quantity of ideas. More ideas mean better ideas," Sherwood said.

Sherwood used Pablo Picasso's artwork, Albert Einstein's papers and Thomas Edison's inventions as examples of quantity over quality.

Curiosity was another topic of Sherwood's discussion. He asked the audience members to feed their curiosity rather than resist it.

"Curiosity is a discipline," Sherwood said. "It's a muscle that you develop and grow. Some people are born curious, other people develop their curiosity."

Pointing to Walt Disney's first failed studio and early productions, Sherwood discussed how risk-taking and strategizing can lead to successful outcomes, as they did for Disney.

"You've got your curiosity fired up, your self-belief, then what's the next step?" Sherwood said. "Your belief in your own magic? You've got to stop talking, and you've got to start doing."

Sherwood's speech concluded with a call to action. He asked audience members to make lasting connections, continue to feed their curiosity and to stop talking and start doing.

Following his speech, Sherwood answered questions from YSU students.



Isidora Susic interviewed Ben Sherwood in the Williamson College of Business Administration before his lecture at Stambaugh Auditorium.



Photos courtesy of Aleksa Radenovic

**First lady**

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Photo courtesy of ysu.edu

LeeAnn Johnson (left) and Bill Johnson (right).

LeeAnn said she still works “here and there” as a hygienist and her favorite part is one-on-one time with patients.

Despite transitioning from a dentist’s office to a university, LeeAnn said she continues her job of listening to and meeting others’ needs

“There’s a unique similarity to healthcare and being here on campus. Caring for everybody and having that chance to just love on all the students is important to me,” LeeAnn said.

According to LeeAnn, helping students maintain positive mental health is a concern of hers.

“I believe all of us should have a check-up from the neck up,” LeeAnn said. “Our students can struggle — it’s tough. College is tough. This period in life is challenging

and sometimes we just need to sit down and listen.”

LeeAnn said it’s important to have discussions about mental health at YSU and make sure every student knows how to access mental health resources on campus.

Throughout her time at YSU, LeeAnn said she’ll offer students an open door for discussions, regardless of the topic.

“It’s important that I feel relatable to students and that students feel they can come talk to me or President Johnson at any time. His door is always open, but I have the same policy,” LeeAnn said.

LeeAnn said she hopes students will share their experiences and ideas to continue bettering YSU.

# On past government affairs

By **Christopher Gillett**  
The Jambar

Following his appointment as the 10th president of Youngstown State University, Bill Johnson made the Office of Government Affairs, which focuses on conducting government relations.

The Jambar got to know the new office in an edition Feb. 29. Now, The Jambar is taking a look at the department’s past.

The last time the university had a government affairs department was between 2004 and 2018. However, YSU conducted government relations prior to the department’s creation.

Before Johnson, the earlier department relied on a combination of full-time employees and contracted lobbyists to do government relations.

Employees reported to the university president, Academic Senate and board of trustees, as well as working with nearby counties.

Previous involvement in government relations and lobbying extended to Columbus due to budget constraints. There, YSU took part in the Inter-University Council of Ohio, working with other state universities to gain funding from the Ohio government.

George Beelen was a full-time history professor at YSU for 30 years and served as chair of the department for half his tenure. After retiring from teaching, Beelen served as a legislative liaison for

YSU from 1996 to 2000.

Beelen said he traveled to Columbus when the legislature was in session.

“This was not high kinds of lobbying where we wined and dined legislators. We did meet them occasionally as a group. The Inter-University Council may have had a couple of legislators come in to explain legislation that related to the universities,” Beelen said.

YSU’s sixth president David Sweet created a government relations department in 2004, which had one full-time position that was left vacant until 2011.

In 2008, Sweet also named George McCloud vice president for university advancement, where he oversaw government relations and other functions. Sweet also hired lobbyist Thomas Green to represent YSU.

After McCloud moved to a new position in 2011, William Binning, former chair of the Political Science Department, became the government relations representative, holding the position until 2018. McCloud died in 2017.

Binning said it was hard to deal with legislators when only representing YSU.

“These legislators, they all want you to make contributions — and we aren’t talking about anything illegal. We’re talking about political contributions. They all want you to buy tickets to their corn roasts or their receptions or whatever,” Binning said. “Legally, YSU can’t give you money to do that and they can’t

reimburse you for it. So, you’re stuck with that.”

When Binning left, the university budgeted government relations to be under university relations. Mike Hripko was the associate vice president of External Relations, Government Affairs and Economic Development from 2018 until he retired in 2021.

Hripko declined an interview.

Both Beelen and Binning said YSU needs to be involved in government affairs. According to Binning, YSU should be prepared to fight attacks on higher ed-

ucation.

“There’s some people who are after higher education in Ohio — I mean critically,” Binning said. “You got to at least try and fight some of that, fight for what you want and fight against what you don’t want. You don’t always win, but if you don’t have somebody to say something then you’re not going to have any impact at all.”

Beelen said universities also have less money to work with since the 1970s.

“People hate taxes, and one of the places you can cut is education — in particular university education,” Beelen said. “We can blame a lot of people for the high cost of education, but I blame us, personally. When I say ‘us,’ I mean the citizens who vote for these legislators who cut state subsidies. So, I’m saying we have to get legislators who are more attuned to education.”



Photo courtesy of YSU Archives and Special Collections

George Beelen (right) received the Heritage Award in 2006.

# Discussing human trafficking

By Daniel Shapiro  
Jambar Contributor

Human trafficking is an issue on college campuses across the United States. With some students having less support away from home, there is an increased risk of being trafficked.

Shawn Varso, Youngstown State University police chief, explained what human trafficking is.

“Human trafficking is usually taking individuals, restricting their freedom by an individual, [and] taking advantage of them,” Varso said. “[Traffickers] usually use these individuals for sex work, that type of industry and they pretty much control the individual’s life.”

Susan Laird, a sociology professor at YSU, is the advisor of YSU Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Laird said human trafficking can be compared to slavery.

“Human trafficking is, simply put, modern day slavery. It is trafficking another human being for some type of labor or sex, and it must involve an element of force, fraud or coercion,” Laird said.

According to the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, half of human trafficking victims are children. Any youth involved in commercial sex acts are considered victims of trafficking and do not have to prove force, fraud or coercion.

Thousands of human trafficking cases occur each year in the United States. Laird said some minorities are more vulnerable to being trafficked.

“We see many [cases]. About 80% are females. A little under 20% are males, and now [we’re] starting to track members of the LGBTQ community,” Laird said. “Eleven to 14 [year olds] nationally is the highest population being targeted.”

There are multiple types of trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor traf-

ficking, where people are exploited for work.

“In labor trafficking, the victims tend to be older, young adults over the age of 18 usually,” Laird said.

To prevent being trafficked, Laird said students should be aware of their surroundings and who they spend time with.

“You have to know the person or the people you are hanging out with. I think on our college campuses, most of our students do know who they’re with,” Laird said. “If somebody comes up and approaches somebody and wants to date them or wants to be involved with them or offers them a job, and it seems too good to be true, it probably is,” Laird said.

According to Laird, it’s important to know the signs of trafficking. She said a common tactic used by traffickers is to show a want for intimacy early in a relationship.

“If somebody comes with a lot of empathy, understanding — they shower you with gifts, they want to engage with you in an intimate relationship, or they know where you can make a lot of money fast — those are all warning signs,” Laird said.

Varso said a caring relationship can quickly turn into a dangerous situation when it comes to trafficking.

“You have to be aware of your relationships with individuals. They may start out as a caring victim, giving them things — and then all of a sudden, it will turn,” Varso said.

According to Varso, anyone aware of a human trafficking case at YSU should contact campus police and the national human trafficking hotline.

“There are various agencies in Mahoning County that they can get in touch with. We do have a human trafficking task force that is located in Mahoning County,” Varso said.

# AI transforms visuals

By Christopher Gillett  
Jambar Contributor

The company OpenAI announced an artificial intelligence video technology called Sora on Feb. 15. Improving upon previous AI video technologies, Sora generates more realistic videos.

In several industries, there are worries that AI video softwares such as Sora could be used for committing crimes, cheating, spreading disinformation and ending jobs.

OpenAI posted a YouTube video Feb. 17 showing prompted Sora-generated videos mimicking animations, drone shots, historical footage and movie cinematography.

While the company has said Sora will eventually be available to the general public, there is no announced release date or waitlist.

Joseph Palardy, an economics professor at Youngstown State University, is involved in crafting YSU’s AI policy. Palardy said a set of AI principles will be presented to the Academic Senate in April.

According to Palardy, AI deepfake technology could allow a student to frame a faculty member for something, but such unethical activities were already addressed by the university’s Acceptable Use of University Technology Resources policy and Student Code of Conduct before the technology’s development.

Palardy said one challenge will be regulating AI in syllabi.

“The faculty member has to know what’s possible [with AI] in order to put it down in their syllabus or specify in class that ‘okay, this is not what we want students to do,’” Palardy said.

Palardy said the speed of AI innovations can present challenges of regulating AI video technology.

“Any faculty member who is doing videography work or having their students create videos should learn how to use or at least experiment or play around with Sora so they know what it’s capable of,” Palardy said. “The technology’s changing so fast, it’s hard to make sure we get every possible iteration within the syllabus.”

Communications professor Dan McCormick is a studio coordinator and broadcast engineer at YSU who has worked as a professional videographer.

McCormick said AI video potential is limited, especially at YSU.

“[AI is] not necessarily thinking it up like a human thinks up something. It’s more or less pulling from everything that’s ever been produced,” McCormick said. “If I wanted [students] to get b-roll or video of campus, there’s a good chance there wouldn’t be enough out there for an AI generator to pull from to create. Now, that’s today. Very soon that might not be an issue.”

Paul Ditchey, a senior lecturer and freelance videotape operator, said cheating with AI videos in and out of the classroom isn’t a guaranteed success.

“People have had their Pulitzer Prize taken away because they made up a story or something like that,” Ditchey said. “If you send [a student] out to shoot something locally and they came back with drone footage of the Amazon jungle, you’d probably know they didn’t shoot it themselves.”

Ditchey also said AI videos look different from video shot on a camera.

“They either have a little choppiness to them, or the colors aren’t quite right, or the movement of whoever’s in it doesn’t seem to be fluid enough,” Ditchey said. “You just look at it and go, ‘It’s not real. I just can’t tell you why.’”

According to McCormick, authentic-looking videos created by AI have the most potential.

“If they could pull that off, that’s the area where it’s a little bit scary because it looks like someone could’ve taken that video,” McCormick said. “That could be a security camera or that could be someone’s cell phone.”

McCormick also said he’s worried about the potential for AI video software to replace jobs.

“It makes me a little nervous as a video professional, because a lot of jobs that would pay decent money might be eliminated,” McCormick said. “Just because part of it is scary doesn’t mean that I’m against it. I’m just curious how it’s going to be used. It seems very easy to do the wrong thing — be it cheating on a project or framing someone for murder.”

**Editor’s note:** Paul Ditchey is Jambar TV’s advisor. Ditchey is not involved in the editorial process.

# Ramadan: A month of fasting and reflection

By Tala Alsharif  
Jambar Contributor

Ramadan is a holy season celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which Muslims observe every year. This year, Ramadan began March 11 and is expected to end April 9.

Kefah Salam, a member of the Islamic Society of Greater Youngstown — called Masjid Al-Kheir in Arabic — said during Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

“[Fasting] is to withhold from eating and drinking ... from Fajr [prayer] before sunrise, until Maghreb [prayer], which is at sunset,” Salam said.

According to National Geographic, Ramadan’s start date is determined by the moon sighting committee of Saudi Arabia after spotting the new crescent moon. Ramadan starts the day following the crescent moon. Isha

Salam said while Muslims refrain from eating and drinking during Ramadan, the month also helps Muslims fast from bad deeds and habits.

“The Arabic term for fasting means to hold back,” Salam said. “Fasting in Ramadan [also] means holding back from desires ... and doing anything bad.”

Ramadan is significant in Islam, as it is believed the Quran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad during Ra-

madan on a night called Laylat al-Qadr, the night of power. Laylat al-Qadr is believed to fall within the last 10 days of Ramadan, and prayer and worship are placed in higher virtue.

“[Laylat al-Qadr] is equivalent to 83 years,” Salam said. “One night is better than our whole life, basically.”

In addition to fasting, Muslims observe Ramadan through prayer, reflection and becoming closer to their faith.

Yara Habo is the president of Youngstown State University’s Muslim Student Association. Habo said she spends Ramadan getting closer to God, spending time with family and appreciating simple things.

“You don’t realize how many times during the day you eat things or drink things that you don’t need, or you don’t spend the time with your family that you should be spending,” Habo said.

In addition to Fajr and Maghreb, there is an additional prayer during Ramadan called Taraweeh, for which many Muslims visit their mosque to pray. While Maghreb is prayed at sunset, Isha is the last prayer of the day.

YSU accommodates Muslims who want to pray on campus — not just during Ramadan, but all year round — as Muslims pray five times a day. Students who want to learn more about accommodations can contact the

Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Habo said she usually prays Taraweeh and balances her time between praying and school work.

“I’m just making sure I’m waking up at earlier times, closer to Fajr, and using my day wisely,” Habo said.

Aleen Kanan, sisters coordinator of MSA, said she enjoys praying Taraweeh at her local mosque throughout Ramadan. Kanan reads a chapter of the Quran every day and eats Suhoor — the meal before Fajr prayer.

“I also like to donate money to poor people,” Kanan said. “I like to gather with my friends and ... make food for them.”

Habo said MSA hosts several activities and events on campus during Islamic Awareness Week, which begins March 18.

“We do things like Try On a Hijab Day,” Habo said. “People walking by can come sit and we put a hijab on them and we tell them the meaning of hijab.”

Hijab, meaning cover or barrier in Arabic, is the practice of wearing modest clothing observed by Muslim men and women. Some Muslim women wear a garment that covers their hair to practice modesty.

MSA will also host an annual dinner called Fast-A-Thon Iftar on April 3.

## Important dates for Ramadan 2024

### Ramadan

Begins March 11

### Laylat al-Qadr

A holy night in Islam honoring the night the Quran was revealed to prophet Muhammad.

Commemorated within the last 10 days of Ramadan

### Eid al-Fitr

A three-day festival marking the end of Ramadan.

Expected April 9 or 10

Information courtesy of Tala Alsharif and [diversity.iu.edu](http://diversity.iu.edu)



Aleen Kanan praying during Ramadan.

Photo by Tala Alsharif / Jambar Contributor

## FARM FRESH

# 'Guins go Beyond the Table

By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**  
The Jambar

The Cooking Club and Students in Dietetics are collaborating to celebrate National Nutrition Month at Youngstown State University.

This year's theme for National Nutrition Month is called Beyond the Table, according to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Julieann Cheng, a part-time instructor in dietetics and the Cooking Club's advisor, said the theme highlights food safety and the impact of farms.

"Beyond the Table is looking at the aspects of a farm-to-table as well as being cognizant of food safety and preparation," Cheng said. "Looking at what resources go into producing our food as well — watch what happens at a farm. How are we getting the food that we are consuming?"

Throughout March, the organizations are hosting workshops in Cushaw Hall's food preparation lab, room 3358.

Students and staff could bring their water bottles for a "Hype Up Your Hydration" event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

on March 12. A variety of fruits, vegetables and herbs were available for attendees to flavor their water without additional sugar.

Cheng said the event was an opportunity for students to try something they may have never tried before.

"If you've ever had cucumber water or even water with lemon lime and oranges, it adds a different flavor to the water. That certainly can help people look in a positive manner at water because everybody doesn't like water all the time," Cheng said.

The organizations will host Learn to be a Trail Mixologist from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 21. Students and faculty can design and create their own trail mix from a variety of bases, such as popcorn, pretzels and cereal.

"We have the bases. We'll also offer a variety of dried fruits, nuts and some sweets to add to the mix. If you want more of a salty or salty and sweet, you will be able to design exactly what you want according to your preferences," Cheng said.

According to Cheng, Students in Dietetics will also give advice for staying hydrated and eating healthy in everyday life.

Kaitlyn Eger, a freshman in exercise science major,

is the vice president of the Cooking Club. Eger said she wants to give back to the community and hopes the events bring in more members.

"The best thing about the cooking club is being able to have fun as well as making healthy meals and getting a break from the dining hall food," Eger said.

Eger and the Cooking Club's president Addison Kern, a freshman in exercise science, established the club in fall 2023. It has 18 members and meets two times a month to follow recipes from various cultures.

"The main goal [of the Cooking Club] is to provide an experience for all students to learn how to cook or enhance the cooking skills that they have, as well as practicing safe food handling procedures within the kitchen," Cheng said.

To sign up for the Cooking Club, students can contact Kern at [aakern@student.yasu.edu](mailto:aakern@student.yasu.edu) or message the club on Instagram, [@ysu\\_cooking\\_club](https://www.instagram.com/ysu_cooking_club).

Those interested in joining Students in Dietetics can contact the club's president, Ashton Abramson, at [aabramson@student.yasu.edu](mailto:aabramson@student.yasu.edu).



Students cooking meals in Cushwa Hall's food preparation lab.



Photos courtesy of Julieann Cheng

# Women's stories reshape sports



“Being able to be a part of something that little girls can look up to. After games we have a lot of little girls come up to us and ask us to sign things or take pictures,” Aulbach said. “The community of young girls we can affect and inspire is really cool.”

Taylor Blandine is an Athletic Academic Coordinator for football, men's tennis and men's and women's track and field. Blandine said she loves to see the community of women in sports at YSU.

“It's really empowering to see these women in a male-dominated field,” Blandine said. “If I'm supporting that and am cheering them on. It's so exciting. I hon-

estly enjoy being in that community.”

Blandine has been working with Athletics for three years. She said it's important to have self-confidence in the industry.

“I had to remember to be true to who I am and remember I worked to get here. I'm good at what I do, and I got to stay true to that,” Blandine said.

For Blandine, recognizing strengths is key to success for women in sports.

“If you keep remembering who you are and what you put into your sport and career goals, then you can be just as powerful as anyone,” Blandine said. “Just stay strong and stay true to who you are.”



**By Teziah Howard**  
Jambar contributor

March is Women's History Month, which honors the contributions of women throughout history. At Youngstown State University, female athletes have left their mark on a historically male-dominated industry.

Alexandra Garrett, sophomore attacker on the women's lacrosse team, said being a woman in sports holds much significance.

“It has impacted me a lot,” Garrett said. “It definitely makes me want to work harder in practice and prove all the stereotypes out there wrong.”

Garrett said she holds herself to high expectations as a female student-athlete, as the athletics industry has been challenging for women throughout history.

“One thing we can all learn and understand is that women in history have come a long way, especially in athletics with all the stereotypes and expectations,” Garrett said.

Many women in sports have bonded through the struggle to assert women as equals in athletics. Mady Aulbach, fifth-year senior guard on the women's basketball team, said she has found family in her female peers at Youngstown State.

“Being a woman in sports has meant finding a community of girls that are like-minded like me. A lot of driven, motivated, really intelligent women,” Aulbach said.

According to Aulbach, many young athletes look up to her and her teammates. Aulbach said the best part about being a woman in sports is having influence on the youth.



Female athletes reflect on what it means to be a woman in sports. Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar



## GETTING “GOOSE BUMPS”

# From bedroom pop to Boyscott

By John Ostapowicz  
The Jambar

In 2015, multi-instrumentalist Scott Hermo Jr. released Boyscott's debut album “Goose Bumps,” and the release has since garnered over 70 million streams.

The indie pop and indie rock band, Boyscott, began as a solo project in 2014 at Hermo's off-campus apartment while he attended Belmont University in Nashville.

With creative input from John Lewandowski, Tiger Adams and Noah Miller, the group of friends took Hermo's rough cut of “Goose Bumps” and transformed it in 2015. The addition of tracked drums by Lewandowski and a new-found energy led to the formation of a live band.

Although Lewandowski, Adams and Miller are no longer in the band's current live lineup, they still add creative input into Hermo's work. Boyscott has experienced several lineup changes, as over 20 musicians have joined or left the band since its formation.

Hermo wrote and produced all 10 songs on the LP, which features external vocals from Ellen Ivy McGuirk. Other musicians also added their own take on the tracks for live shows.

For many musicians, making an album before forming a band is uncommon, but Hermo created the entire project before performing at a live show.

“We made a record first without starting a band, with the mindset of ‘let's make these songs,’” Hermo said. “Afterwards, people started hitting us up for shows and we started to do that.”

“Goose Bumps” was originally released Nov. 17, 2015. Boyscott partnered with Topshelf Records and Babe City Records

on Sept. 13, 2019 for a re-release of “Goose Bumps.”

From the album, tracks “Nova Scotia 500” and “Killer Whale” are Boyscott's most streamed, with 28.2 million and 22.1 million, respectively.

With the popularity of the track “Nova Scotia 500,” Hermo has played the song live numerous times. He said he never gets tired of the audience's energy.

“I'm a little sick of that song, but not enough. The energy at shows is wonderful,” Hermo said. “I am totally happy to give the people what they want.”

While in Nashville, Hermo found success in the underground music scene at the DRKMTTR Collective, a club aimed at building a community in the underground music and arts scene.

Musically, Boyscott has a consistent fan base, with over 750,000 monthly listeners on Spotify. Hermo said it is exciting that thousands of fans are interested in his music.

“[Boyscott] is going way better than I had anticipated, and it's a little nerve-racking because it would be great if that continued,” Hermo said.

Although Boyscott has not released an album since the re-release of “Goose Bumps,” the band has plans to release a follow-up album in the fall. The new album will feature the track “After Dark,” which was released Aug. 24, 2023.

Boyscott will embark on a full U.S. tour with indie pop artist Yot Club with a stop planned for 7:30 p.m. on May 3 at Mahall's in Lakewood, Ohio.

For a complete list of tour dates and new musical releases visit [boyscott.bigcartel.com](http://boyscott.bigcartel.com).



Scott Hermo Jr. performs in Boyscott.

Photo courtesy of Alex Woodworth

# Sudoku

	4		2	5	6	7		8
8	9	6		7				
			9					
4			1		5			9
	8				7		3	
	5	3			2		1	7
2								1
		8	3	2		9	7	
9	1	7		6	4	8		3

**Easy**

	2	3			5		6	1
			1	6			2	
1	5				9		4	8
		9			6			
6	3	7	9			4	5	
2								
3					2			
7	6	2	5	9	1	8	3	4
			8	7			1	

**Easy**

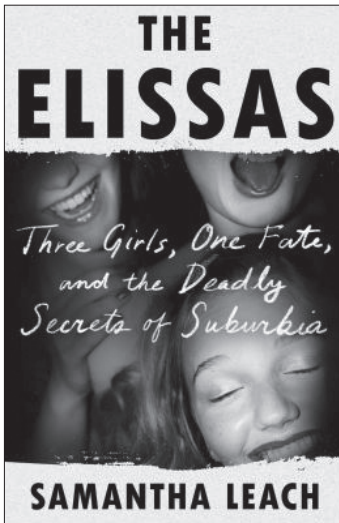
4	7	2	3		6		1	9
			4	7				
		6	5	1	9			
1		7				4	6	
6				4	8	9		
	9			3	1	7		8
3	4				7	1		
2		5			4			
	1	9	8		3	6	4	

**Medium**

7	3		8			5	6	2
5				9				
	8		2			7		3
9		5		4	1			6
8			9	7	5	4	3	
4	1	3	6			9	5	
6		1					7	8
3	4			6		1		
			1	3			4	5

**Hard**

# Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library

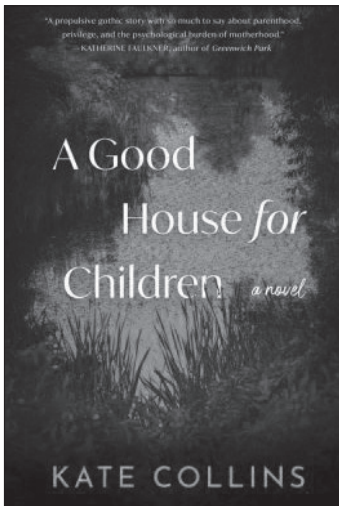


## Nonfiction review

### **The Elissas: Three Girls, One Fate, and the Deadly Secrets of Suburbia**

by Samantha Leach

After being sent to a reform school for troubled teens, privileged and rebellious Elissa befriended girls who shared her predilection for partying and drug use as well as her name. Part memoir, part criticism of the troubled teen industry, the author reflects on the short life of her childhood friend in this compelling and heartbreaking debut novel.



## Fiction review

### **A Good House for Children**

by Kate Collins

A great option for fans of Michael Flanigan's show *The Haunting of Hill House* (2018). This horror novel follows two women living in the same creepy old house, one is a mother of two in 2017 and the other woman is a nanny in 1974. Collins explores how isolation affects both the main characters and their loved ones while making the reader question if it's psychological or paranormal.

## Upcoming programs

**Monday, March 18**

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Mystery Monday Book Club

No registration required

**Monday, March 18**

5 to 7:30 p.m.

Monochrome Movie Monday

Registration required

**Wednesday, March 20**

6 to 7 p.m.

Cinephiles Film Club

Registration required

Visit [libraryvisit.org](http://libraryvisit.org) to register, get more information or find other programs

To find more information or to place a hold on a title, visit [libraryvisit.org](http://libraryvisit.org), meet us at 305 Wick Ave. or call us at (330) 744-8636.

# Have something to say to The Jambar?

## Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

**[thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com)**

## The Jambar Column

# Goin' back home

Welcome back, Penguins! I sound like an overly enthusiastic, underpaid camp counselor, don't I? Well, don't let the exclamation point fool you — I'm not over the moon about spring break being over. Did you all have lots of fun? I sure hope so. I know I did.

For my second spring break at Youngstown State University, I went to Gatlinburg, Tennessee — not as popular as Nashville but a whole lot cheaper.

I'm a huge fan of country music, especially classic country Dolly Parton, Lynn Anderson, and Linda Ronstadt.

Gatlinburg is fairly close to where Parton was born. I wouldn't have been shocked if there were Dolly Parton fire hydrants lining Dolly Parton sidewalks.

I traversed the Smoky Mountains early in the morning. In fact, I was woken up at 5 a.m. to go hiking. Was I elated? What do you think? Well, as bitter as I sound, I enjoyed it. There isn't anywhere I love more than being outdoors. You won't find air any clearer than up in the Smokys.

The highlight of the trip, however, was when I found a Margaritaville restaurant. As a Parrothead, I felt that it was appropriate for me to pay my respects to the late, great Jimmy Buffett by buying some conservatively priced fried seafood. If I could've stayed forever, I would have.

The only drag is the drive from Ohio to Tennessee and vice versa. You never realize how big Ohio is until you look at your location after three hours only to see you're halfway through the state. Kentucky was cool, but I regret to say we



Matthew Sotlar

didn't stop for some of the state's renowned fried chicken.

To add to the good vibes of the vacation, I learned that one of my short stories is being published. Who would've thought the columnist loves to write?

The drive home was a long and cold one, and it started raining halfway through it. Thankfully, my driver had the navigational skills of Magellan, since we sat through maybe 30 minutes worth of traffic in total. That includes Friday's five o'clock Columbus traffic.

What was the first thing I did when I got back home? I had a proper meal at Chili's with my friends, including two other Matts who were home for Spring Break. It felt great to be among my people — not my friends, the other Matts.

Will I go back to Gatlinburg? Most likely. Unless they decide to close down Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, you can count on me returning. The Smoky Mountains alone were worth the trip.

A lot of people wondered why I went to Gatlinburg of all places. Why not Florida? Why not Cancun? First of all, I'm broke. Second, it's not about taking grandiose vacations and tossing money around like it grows on trees — even though it does in a way. It's about making memories with your friends and embarking on once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

## Quote of the Week

“A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.”

— Oscar Wilde  
Irish poet and playwright

## The Jambar Editorial

# March is the best month

Another March is upon the world, and with it comes one of the biggest sports phenomena every year.

This event takes 68 Division I collegiate men's and women's basketball programs and puts them against each other in a single-elimination tournament as a finale to the season.

March Madness is back, baby.

Although the hometown Youngstown State University Penguins won't be in the field of 68 this year, it's still a sight to see so many teams battle for the right to be called National Champion.

Of the 68 teams, 32 will receive an automatic bid by winning conference tournaments — 32 Division I basketball conferences, 32 automatic bids.

The remaining spots will be filled by the NCAA, which picks teams it believes deserve a shot to play for a championship.

As for what the world will see in each tournament — both men's and women's — The Jambar has a few ideas.

Caitlin Clark has hands down been the best player in college basketball this season. Clark leads the country with 32 points per game to go along with 8.6 assists per game. Not to mention, she broke the all-time NCAA scoring record — incredible.

Clark is currently leading the No. 3 University of Iowa Hawkeyes into Selection Sunday with a 28-4 record. It's likely she'll see her second straight Final Four.

The University of South Carolina is 32-0 — the only undefeated team in women's college basketball. A championship game appearance is simply a right of passage for the Gamecocks.

As for women's Horizon League teams, ESPN bracketologist Charlie Creme predicts Cleveland State University will be one of the four No. 13 seeds in the tournament as an automatic qualifier and face off against a No. 4 seed.

The University of Wisconsin-Green

Bay is predicted as one of the “first four out,” meaning the team has something to prove before it can make it into the bracket with an at-large bid.

On the men's side, the University of Houston is playing its best basketball, as the team beat out the No. 14 University of Kansas, firmly placing the Cougars at No. 1 in the country.

Wooden Award-winning center Zach Edey is playing Purdue University to a No. 1 seed in the field as well, having 21 double-doubles on the season. Youngstown State's DJ Burns had 22 double-doubles this year.

As for teams that could make waves being lower seeds, the University of Vermont Catamounts could be a scary team to see in March. This year, they are projected by ESPN analyst Joe Lunardi as a No. 13 seed.

The Cats have made the tournament in four of the last seven years and have played their opponents closer and closer each season. In a year filled with upsets, look for them to make a push to the second round — at least.

After a first round exit last season to No. 16 seed Fairleigh Dickinson University — the second time in college basketball history — Edey and Purdue will come with a vengeance this season.

Michigan State University somehow levels up every year in March. Last season, the team sent No. 2 seed Marquette University home as a No. 7 seed. The Spartans are projected as a No. 8 seed this year, which is horrible news for any No. 1 seed in the Round of 32.

As for championship contenders, a coin flip would be just as helpful in deciding the two teams out of the 68-team field — especially in March.

Whatever the outcome for men's or women's basketball, it will be another fantastic showing from 136 teams in another edition of March Madness. Hope you'll be watching.

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Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

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The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's advisor, business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute or have final approval in editorial content. Editorials published by The Jambar do not necessarily represent the views of faculty, staff or administration at YSU.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com). Letters should concern issues related to Youngstown State University, but may encompass outside topics. Letters must be typed and not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators for publication. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity and will not be rejected based on expressed views. The editorial board reserves the right to reject letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinions with facts from reliable sources or have been adequately covered in The Jambar. The editorial board may request rewrites from a guest writer based on any of these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and guest commentaries do not reflect those of The Jambar.

## NOW HIRING FOR FALL 2024

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media leadership positions.

Application deadline is **March 18**.

#### Available leadership positions include:

Jambar Editor in Chief\*

Jambar TV Executive Producer/Jambar Managing Editor\*

Jambar News Editor\*\*

Jambar Student Life Editor\*\*

Jambar Sports Editor\*\*

Jambar Head Copy Editor\*\*

Rookery Radio General Manager

\* Must be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

\*\* Must be available Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons

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# Penguins reach the end of the road

By Cameron Niemi  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team had an unexpected change at the start of its 2023-2024 season when head coach John Barnes took a leave of absence in early October.

Shortly after Barnes's leave, assistant coach John Nicolais was named interim head coach of the team.

Almost five months later, the team finished the regular season with a 13-17 overall record and a 9-11 record in the Horizon League.

YSU finished seventh in conference play and earned a first round home game in the 2024 Barbamol Horizon League Championship.

The Penguins hosted the tenth seeded Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis on March 5 inside Beeghly Center. The Penguins defeated the Jaguars, 73-50, in the first round matchup.

Senior Malia Magestro led the team with 18 points. Sophomore Abby Liber came off the bench and added 13 points. Junior Haley Thierry shot 3-of-3 from beyond the arc and finished with 12 points.

Fifth-year senior Emily Saunders led the team in rebounds with six, along with three blocks. Fifth-year se-

nior Mady Aulbach dished out a team-high five assists.

As a team, the Penguins shot 46% from the field and 50% from three-point range. The 'Guins defense was stout as the team had nine steals in the game and 24 defensive rebounds.

Nicolais said it was important to get the win at home, especially for the fifth-year seniors on the team.

"It was important to send them off on the right note here at home," Nicolais said. "The last two years we weren't able to get a tournament win here at home, which is unfortunate. It's nice to get one and survive and advance."

Aulbach said it was bittersweet playing in front of the home crowd one last time.

"I am just really grateful that I got to play at Youngstown, and I really want this to last as long as we can make it last," Aulbach said. "I am forever indebted to this place. I'm just really thankful I've got to be a Penguin for this long."

With the win, YSU advanced to the quarterfinals and traveled to Wisconsin to take on the second seeded University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on March 7.

Youngstown State was eliminated by the Phoenix, 94-57, ending the team's run in the Horizon League Championship.

Fifth-year senior Shay-Lee Kirby led the team with 15 points, while Magestro scored 14.

Green Bay had five players score in double figures, and its bench outscored Youngstown State, 41-10. The Phoenix took a lead early in the first quarter and held it throughout the rest of the game.

Green Bay won the Horizon League Championship on March 12 to book its ticket to the March Madness tournament.

Despite the loss in the quarter finals, the Penguins secured their first Horizon League tournament win in three years.

YSU finished the season with a 14-18 overall record and 9-7 at home.

Earlier this season, the team announced seven high school seniors who signed a National Letter of Intent to play at YSU next season.

Youngstown State will lose six fifth-year players who ended their careers in Youngstown: Aulbach, Saunders, Kirby, Dena Jarrells, Paige Shy and Jen Wendler.

Over the next few months, the rest of the team's players will decide to stay or enter the NCAA transfer portal for the 2024-2025 season.



Women's basketball's first round matchup against IUPUI.

Photos by Dylan Lux / The Jambar

# Spring break sports shorts

## Lacrosse starts season slow

By Madeline Hippeard  
The Jambar

While Youngstown State University's women's lacrosse team is still searching for its first win of the season, it has begun turning action into records.

Youngstown State's freshman goalie Paige Borkowski recorded the most saves in a single game in program history during a March 4 matchup against Stetson University.

Borkowski recorded 20 saves throughout the match, earning a .488 save percentage.

Despite a record-breaking performance by Borkowski, the 'Guins were unable to keep up offensively and lost the match, 21-13.

Freshman midfielder Genna Cook led an early offensive and was the first player to score in the game. Cook finished the day with two goals.

Lena Cox led Youngstown State with four goals, a career-high for the freshman attacker.

Following Cox, freshman attacker Ava Kreutzer scored three points, her first collegiate hat trick.

After the loss to Stetson, the Penguins continued their losing streak against Longwood University on March 9.

The 'Guins managed to stay close behind Longwood throughout the first half, heading into the third quarter with a score of 9-7.

However, after the half, the team was unable to keep up with the Lancers, resulting in a 16-10 loss.

Against Longwood, Kreutzer scored four points for Youngstown State, earning her second-consecutive hat trick.

Youngstown State stayed at home against George Washington University on March 13.

The Penguins fell short in the fourth quarter and lost to the Revolutionaries, 14-11.

Youngstown State will look to earn its first victory of the season against Kent State University on March 17 as it begins Mid-American Conference play.

## Hunt takes on NCAA Championship

By Madeline Hippeard  
The Jambar

With the conclusion of the 2024 Horizon League Championships inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site, senior long jumper Tye Hunt qualified for the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

The three-day event stretched from March 7 through 9 in Boston. Hunt was among 16 athletes who participated in the long jump.

Hunt finished the qualifying round of the event with a best jump of 7.66 meters. In the final round, Hunt jumped 7.62 meters.

In total, there have been nine qualifiers for the NCAA Championships in Youngstown State University history. The first athlete to accomplish this was

Kofi Owusu-Ansah in the 200 meter in 2000.

Hunt earned his spot in the national tournament in December 2023 at the YSU Icebreaker.

At the Icebreaker, Hunt set a school, facility and meet record with a jump of 8.08 meters. Before the Icebreaker, Hunt held the previous school record of 7.74 meters.

Hunt's 8.08 meter jump ranked him fifth nationally among all other NCAA Division I long jump athletes. He remained ranked fifth for the remainder of the season.

At the end of the indoor season, Hunt earned his first Horizon League title after winning the long jump with a leap of 7.69 meters during the Horizon League Indoor Track & Field Championship.

## Seniority leads women's golf

By Marissa Masano  
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's golf team traveled to Hawkstone Country Club in Gainesville, Florida on March 4 and 5 to compete in the Howard University Lady Bison Invitational. The Penguin's second event of the spring featured 54-holes and a par set at 71.

The team placed fourth out of 12 universities. Senior Madie Smithco and junior Lizzie Saur each earned top-10 individual finishes. The Penguins finished with a three-round team total of 924.

Georgetown University defended its title by winning the event with a team total of 873. Howard University finished second with a three-round total of 896, and

Creighton University placed third with a three-round total of 921.

The Penguin's had a first-round score of 311 and second-round score

of 301 to close out Day One of competition. The team rounded out the two-day invitational with a combined total of 312 in the final session.

Smithco, Saur, fifth-year Danae Rugola, sophomore Chaela Barnett and freshman Neeranuch Prajunpanichall competed within YSU's lineup.

Smithco placed fifth individually out of 76 competitors to earn her sixth top-10 finish this season. Her three-round score of 222 included six birdies and 34 pars.

Coming off a career-best three-round score of 222 in the team's first event of the spring, Saur tied for 10th individually with a three-round score of 227. This marked her fifth top-10 finish of the season. The junior made six birdies and 29 pars.

Prajunpanich finished tied for 17th with a three-day

combined total of 231. The freshman averaged 4.48 par 4s and 4.93 par 5s.

Senior Titita Loudtragulngam and sophomore Adena Rugola competed as individuals in the event and were the next highest finishers.

Adena tied for 35th with a three-day score of 239 and Loudtragulngam's total score of 240 had her tied for 37th.

Georgetown had the top-three finishers, including junior Georgia Ruffolo, who won the event with a 312 three-round total.

Following the invitational, Smithco was named Under Armour Horizon League Women's Golfer of the Week. This is the Smithco's second time being honored and the second Penguin to be recognized by the league this spring. Smithco finished nine over par to lead YSU.

So far in the 2023-2024 campaign, Smithco averages a team-best 73.7 strokes per round.

The Penguins will travel to Nevel Meade Golf Course in Prospect, Kentucky to compete in the Nevel Meade Invitational hosted by Cleveland State University on March 18 and 19.

# Goodbye ‘Guins

By Dylan Lux  
The Jambar

An abrupt end to the season came in the second round of the 2024 Horizon League Basketball Championships for the Youngstown State University men’s basketball team.

After a 14-6 record in the Horizon League, YSU earned the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament.

In round one, Cleveland State University defeated Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, setting up the No. 7 vs No. 2 matchup with YSU in Beeghly Center on March 7.

Fifth-year senior DJ Burns played for Murray State University before transferring to Youngstown State. Burns played in March Madness and advanced to the second round during the 2021-2022 season with the Racers.

Burns said his experience was invaluable, especially on a team that has never been to the NCAA Tournament.

“You have to understand it, first of all — you have to embrace it,” Burns said. “My experience in the past with Murray State and to have an NCAA Tournament team helps me now ... just having the pressure relief of knowing what [the postseason] looks like.”

Cleveland State was without leading scorer senior forward Tristan Enaruna, who averaged 20 points per game.

There were five lead changes and five ties in the first half, as the Vikings went up at halftime 44-38.

The ‘Guins shot 2-13 in the first half from three, while the Vikings ended at 5-10.

The Penguins lowered the CSU lead to four points with 4:15 left in the contest, which was the closest margin the Vikings allowed.

Youngstown State was eliminated from the Horizon League tournament in the second round by Cleveland State, 82-70.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun said the Vikings stepped up without their leading scorer and credited the team’s culture.

“Those other kids stepped up, but that’s who Cleveland State is. They got a great culture,”

Calhoun said. “They play really hard — they made big plays and that’s what happens in the tournament.”

Leading the game in points and rebounds for YSU was Burns with 17 points and 18 rebounds. Burns finished the season with 22 double-doubles, which placed him third in the nation as of March 10.

Fifth-year senior Brandon Rush put together a 15-point performance to go along with a steal in his last game in Beeghly Center.

Two of the top-three scorers for the Penguins were fifth-year seniors Ziggy Reid and Brett Thompson, who both shot 3-10 from the field and had a combined 1-12 from beyond the arc.

The Penguins finished the season 22-10 overall, going 8-7 on the road and 14-3 at home.

Youngstown State is in contention for the National Invitational Tournament or the College Basketball Invitational Tournament.

Both brackets will be released at 6 p.m. on March 17 after the Selection Show, which will decide who makes the NCAA Tournament. The NIT competitors will be announced at 9:30 p.m. the same day.

