


THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931



 YSU_JAMBAR

Thursday, February 13, 2025

 THEJAMBAR.COM

POTENTIAL REGULATIONS



If passed, Bill I would impact teacher curriculum, DEI and faculty strikes.

Photo by Elise Ramos / The Jambar

Proposed Bill I would impact YSU

By Elise Ramos and John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Ohio Sen. Jerry Cirino proposed Bill I, known as the Ohio Higher Education Act, to the Ohio Senate on Jan. 22, and has sparked controversy amongst Ohio's 37 institutions since its proposal.

If passed, the legislation would ban diversity, equity and inclusion programs at public and private universities — including Youngstown State University — as well as technical colleges in Ohio and affect other operations.

For faculty members, Bill I prohibits striking as a form of protest or negotiation. The bill also has a final offer-settlement procedure, which could limit the bargaining power of faculty unions.

In the classroom setting, it would ban teachers

from speaking about controversial topics such as politics, immigration and same-sex marriage.

The new proposal is a follow up to Cirino's original Legislation Bill 83, presented to the Ohio Senate on March 14, 2023. It encountered significant pushback and failed to pass through the Ohio House of Representatives.

For YSU, the revised bill would impact the Office of Belonging, Empowerment and Engagement. The proposed elimination of these programs would affect various student support services and initiatives.

Mark Vopat, professor of philosophy and president of the YSU Ohio Education Association, actively advocates for diversity on campus.

Bill I, Page 2

DeWine chooses Tressel as Lt. Gov.

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

Former Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel was nominated Feb. 10 as Ohio's next lieutenant governor by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine.

Tressel, if his nomination is approved, would take over for former Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, who was appointed by DeWine to fill the vacant seat in the Ohio Senate.

Tressel served as president at YSU from 2014 until his retirement in 2023. He also served as head coach for both YSU's and The Ohio State University's football programs.

In a press release from ohio.gov, DeWine stated Tressel's background in education, workforce development and economic viewpoints played a key role in his selection.

"[Tressel] has spent a great deal of time working with and leading young people, and he will be involved directly with education and workforce development during the remaining two years of my administration," DeWine stated.

In order for Tressel to officially become Ohio's lieutenant governor, he must be confirmed by the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives.

Federal freeze

By Matthew Sotlar
The Jambar

With President Donald Trump's memorandum requiring a freeze to all federal grant funding, many Youngstown State University students were left uncertain as to whether or not their loans, scholarships or grants would be affected.

The memorandum, which was issued Jan. 27, was rescinded two days later. John McDonnell Jr., chief judge of the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island, issued an injunction on the order Feb. 10.

Freeze, Page 4

News	1-7	Opinion	11-13
Student Life	8	Classifieds	13
Art + Entertainment	9-10	Sports	14-16

STAFF**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

[John Ostapowicz](mailto:John.Ostapowicz@student.ysu.edu)
jostapowicz@student.ysu.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

[Raeghan Hilton](mailto:Raeghan.Hilton@student.ysu.edu)
rihilton@student.ysu.edu

NEWS EDITOR

[Matthew Sotlar](mailto:Matthew.Sotlar@student.ysu.edu)
mjsotlar@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

[Alex Sorrells](mailto:Alex.Sorrells@student.ysu.edu)
acsorrells@student.ysu.edu

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

[Mick Dillon](mailto:Mick.Dillon@student.ysu.edu)
lmdillon01@student.ysu.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

[Dylan Lux](mailto:Dylan.Lux@student.ysu.edu)
dlux@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

[Marissa Masano](mailto:Marissa.Masano@student.ysu.edu)
mamasano@student.ysu.edu

GENERAL REPORTERS

[Jacqueline Arroyo](mailto:Jacqueline.Arroyo@student.ysu.edu)
jarroyo@student.ysu.edu

[Annabelle Boone](mailto:Annabelle.Boone@student.ysu.edu)
alboone02@student.ysu.edu

[Nicarlyle Hanchard](mailto:Nicarlyle.Hanchard@student.ysu.edu)
nvhanchard@student.ysu.edu

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

[Elise Ramos](mailto:Elise.Ramos@student.ysu.edu)
enramos@student.ysu.edu

SPORTS REPORTERS

[Teziah Howard](mailto:Teziah.Howard@student.ysu.edu)
tahoward@student.ysu.edu

[Cameron Mitchell](mailto:Cameron.Mitchell@student.ysu.edu)
cmitchell@student.ysu.edu

COPY EDITORS

[Katelyn Obermiyer](mailto:Katelyn.Obermiyer@student.ysu.edu)
knobermiyer01@student.ysu.edu

[Maria Schwartz](mailto:Maria.Schwartz@student.ysu.edu)
meschwartz01@student.ysu.edu

HEAD DESIGNER

[Madison Fessler](mailto:Madison.Fessler@student.ysu.edu)
mrfessler@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

[Kristina Tufaro](mailto:Kristina.Tufaro@student.ysu.edu)
krtufaro@student.ysu.edu

COLUMNISTS

[Madison Fessler](mailto:Madison.Fessler@student.ysu.edu)
mrfessler@student.ysu.edu

[Nicarlyle Hanchard](mailto:Nicarlyle.Hanchard@student.ysu.edu)
nvhanchard@student.ysu.edu

[Aicha Sawaneh](mailto:Aicha.Sawaneh@student.ysu.edu)
aasawaneh@student.ysu.edu

[Matthew Sotlar](mailto:Matthew.Sotlar@student.ysu.edu)
mjsotlar@student.ysu.edu

WEB MANAGER

[Mohammad Haram Kafil](mailto:Mohammad.Haram.Kafil@student.ysu.edu)
mkafil@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER

[Ari Butz](mailto:Ari.Butz@student.ysu.edu)
albutz01@student.ysu.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

[Gavin Blacksher](mailto:Gavin.Blacksher@student.ysu.edu)
gpblacksher@student.ysu.edu

BUSINESS MANAGER

[Mary Dota](mailto:Mary.Dota@ysu.edu)
mfdota@ysu.edu

Bill I

Page 1

“If [Bill I] passes, it will be detrimental to the university and have unintended consequences,” Vopat said. “You are a stakeholder in your education and these are decisions we have a say in.”

Students and faculty at institutions across Ohio have expressed concerns that Bill I’s measures would greatly impact the freedoms offered through DEI. Its proposal also sparked widespread protests from various campus-advocacy groups.

Faculty members at YSU would also be subject to a new post-tenure periodic review process, which could alter the current tenure system and impact job security.

In response to a remark by Cirino that stated the “Holocaust denial is being taught in classrooms,” Vopat said “we have been down this rabbit hole before.”

“That kind of micromanagement, censoring in the classroom, it’s troubling. The state is telling the subject matter experts what to teach in their classrooms. It’s all a smoke screen for ‘I just want more control over the universities,’” Vopat said.

Vopat also said he believes facilitating a conversation with Cirino would establish ways to address the issue.

“If Sen. Cirino wanted to come to campus and had clearly defined problems with evidence, we could have a nuanced conversation of how to fix it,” Vopat said. “If you really think there’s a problem, show me and convince me that this is the best way to solve it. I don’t feel like there’s evidence for widespread indoctrination.”

WSYX Columbus reported that Brielle Short, a student of The Ohio State University, said Bill I would impact several student spaces and could lead to issues.

“I don’t believe the sacred space of classrooms, or of students or groups or even just the sacred space of our university, shouldn’t be used as a political chess piece like this,” Short stated.

The Jambar posted on the student feed asking for feedback about the bill. Michael Kolesar, senior electrical engineering major, responded and said he believes Bill I promotes intellectual diversity.

“As a student, the bill is going to uphold the fundamental values that make America great — free speech and equal opportunity,” Kolesar said. “DEI driven curriculum directly contradicts these principles by favoring certain groups over others.”

Kolesar also said he favors the way the bill would treat teacher strikes.

“If there is a strike, we’re not going to have to worry about students getting pushed out of their classrooms or worrying about when the schedule resumes,” Kolesar said.

Vopat said the university has had more snow days in the last 25 years than it has strike days, with only one day interfering with students going to class. The other two days were non-teaching days.

As stated by the Cincinnati Enquirer, universities and colleges that don’t comply with the changes — if enacted — could risk losing its share of the \$2 billion Ohio spends on higher education operations and construction projects.

With the bill being introduced Jan. 31, there are no updates yet regarding its passage to the house.

CONTACT US

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
THEJAMBARYSU



VIEW US ON YOUTUBE
JAMBARTV BY THE JAMBAR



FOLLOW US ON TIKTOK
THE JAMBAR
@YSU.JAMBAR



FOLLOW US ON INSTA
@YSU_JAMBAR



SEND US AN EMAIL
THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM



GIVE US A CALL
330-941-3094

7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**Thu.**

High: 41°F
Low: 18°F
Chance of precip:
59%

Fri.

High: 32°F
Low: 26°F
Chance of precip:
0%

Sat.

High: 40°F
Low: 27°F
Chance of precip:
94%

Sun.

High: 32°F
Low: 8°F
Chance of precip:
70%

Mon.

High: 18°F
Low: 11°F
Chance of precip:
4%

Tue.

High: 26°F
Low: 16°F
Chance of precip:
55%

Wed.

High: 30°F
Low: 19°F
Chance of precip:
76%

Information courtesy of
accuweather.com

NOW HIRING FOR FALL 2025

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

Application deadline is **March 11**.

Available leadership positions include:

Jambar Editor in Chief and Jambar TV News Director *
Jambar Managing Editor and Jambar TV Executive Producer *
Jambar News Editor**
Jambar Student Life Editor**
Jambar Head Copy Editor**
Rookery Radio General Manager

* Must be available Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

** Must be available Wednesday afternoons

Email Mary Dota at MFDOTA@YSU.EDU or call 330-941-3094

BETTER BUSINESS

WCBA goes international

By Nicarlyle Hanchard
The Jambar

Two degrees offered by the Williamson College of Business Administration have been internationally accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Master of Business Administration degrees were recently added to WCBA's accredited programs.

In a press release by Youngstown State University's News Center, YSU President Bill Johnson stated that outside approval highlights the work of students and faculty at the WCBA.

"This global recognition places YSU's business programs in the top 6% worldwide," Johnson stated. "Consequently, our students are ensured a high-quality business education and professional development opportunities that enable them to maximize their competitiveness in the job market."

According to the press release, AACSB is a globally recognized institution that sets the standard for business schools. Its accreditation is recognized worldwide as the highest form of achievable excellence by a business school.

Betty Jo Licata, interim dean of WCBA, said the achievement shows the faculty's commitment to preparing students' for real-world career experiences.

"Our accreditation reflects the faculty's commitment to excellence through engagement with our students, the profession and the business," Licata said.

Christina Saenger, associate dean of WCBA, said the accreditation is a result of the college's continued innovations. She played a pertinent role during the accreditation process.

"Our accreditation is an outcome of continually improving and innovating how we engage students inside and outside of the classroom to prepare them to excel in business," Saenger said. "This resonated with what our students are looking for and motivates them to enroll in

our business degree programs."

The faculty's involvement in students' personal and professional development was spotlighted by AACSB. Saenger said AACSB cited several noteworthy programs and services offered to students by the WCBA.

"Our Center for Student Services team and Center for Career Management staff are difference makers for our students, helping them stay on-track to graduation and developing their skills in securing internships and full-time jobs," Saenger said.

The newly accredited bachelor's and master's degree enrollments are over 11% and 6.5%, respectively. Saenger said the increase, in addition to the accreditation, signals the college's program meeting a high international standard.

"Students and parents look for the global mark of excellence that AACSB represents, and it's one of many things that sets us apart from other programs," Saenger said.



WCBA received accreditation Feb. 7 by the AACSB.



Photos by John Ostapowicz / The Jambar

Freeze

Page 1

The Trump administration has clarified publicly that the freeze would not affect student loans or scholarships.

Melissa McKenney, YSU's director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, said the offices were flooded with calls from concerned students.

"We did get a lot of calls that day," McKenney said. "What we conveyed to any student that contacted us was we have not been given any directives. If we do, you will get an official communication from the university and we will keep you posted on what's going on."

While the freeze would target multiple departments, such as the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Education, McKenney said the freeze itself would not directly affect YSU.

"From the standpoint of YSU, what is good is that they immediately confirmed that this would not affect our ability to disperse federal student loans and Federal

Pell Grants," McKenney said.

Although the freeze was blocked by U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan, there are still concerns over the potential reworking and passing of the memorandum.

McKenney said the office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is ultimately unsure as to whether or not funding will be impacted

"If we're looking and say, 'Well, what about next year? What about the year after that?' Right now, we don't know," McKenney said. "First of all, we would have to ensure that [funding] is even going to be allowable, if it is determined to be allowable."

The memorandum, which was issued by the President's Office of Management and Budget, stated that financial assistance should be dedicated to advancing administration priorities, focusing taxpayer dollars to advance a stronger and safer America.

McKenney said every university in America would be affected by the freeze of student loans, not only YSU.

"If a worst-case scenario were to come down the pipeline and we are told to freeze all aid, then we would not

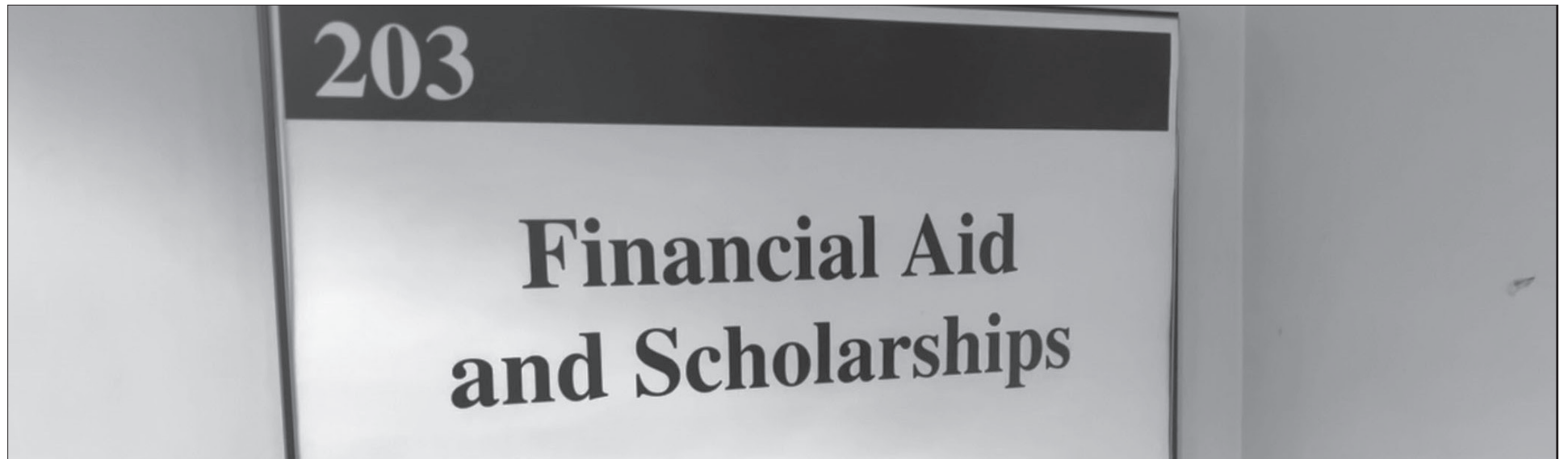
be able to disperse aid as of that date ... That would be pretty hefty because it wouldn't just affect us, that would affect every single college," McKenney said.

McKenney added students would not be affected by a federal freeze as they are paid the loans directly.

"The [Trump] administration is saying that payments that are made directly to individuals like students are likely not going to be affected by this," McKenney said. "The likelihood of something like that happening is pretty minimal, but I know it would be concerning."

McKenney urged any students who are concerned over the freeze or their loans, grants or scholarships to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

"The one thing that I would hate to have happen is for misinformation to be spread and panic to ensue," McKenney said. "You're welcome to contact our office or contact the Penguin Service Center, both of our areas are able to answer your questions and will be able to communicate the best information that we have at that time."



The pause of federal funding did not affect the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at YSU.

Photos by Matthew Sotlar / The Jambar

GAMEDAY HUB



The Varsity Club opened Dec. 12 and partners with YSU's 21 sports.

Photos by Madison Fessler / The Jambar

Downtown Youngstown's spot for sports

By Cassie Greene
Jambar Contributor

John Rudy, a Youngstown local with a passion for the community and food, shared his history behind opening the sports bar, Varsity Club, in downtown Youngstown.

Rudy opened the establishment Dec. 12, 2024, and has generated a partnership between Youngstown State University's 21 competitive sports.

The Varsity Club is a take on the feeling of a local, hometown bar. Rudy said he's always wanted to own a business downtown, and the restaurant allows for community fellowship.

"The downtown [Youngstown] community can be connected again," Rudy said.

The Varsity Club offers a large patio, which will soon include an outdoor bar with over 15 chairs, a stage for live music, TVs, bocce courts and a fire pit.

The building that houses the Varsity Club was built in 1904, and the exposed brick on the building has stood for almost 122 years.

Rudy's passion for food stemmed from spaghetti dinners at his grandma's house when he was 14-years-old. Over time, Rudy progressed in the restaurant industry,

which led him to co-own Magic Tree Pub & Eatery in Boardman.

Wing nights and happy hours are coming soon to the Varsity Club. For YSU students, Rudy said he's hoping to allow the use of Pete's Points in the near future, with the proof of a YSU ID.

For the 2025 YSU football season, Rudy plans to offer a spot where students, parents and other community members can tailgate and watch the game on the patio.

Robert Salven, a Varsity Club employee, said his experience as an employee at the establishment has taught him the value of teamwork.

"Everyone who's down here is very genuine, you can tell they want to make a difference," Salven said.

Over the next five years, Rudy said he plans to open more restaurant locations in and near the Mahoning Valley.

"[The idea is] to have more Varsity Clubs open up all around, such as Kent or even right in Boardman," Rudy said.

This St. Patrick's Day, Varsity Club will have live music from 8-11 p.m. from the Youngstown band, RDNA.

A closer look at YSU's Over Sixty Program

By Mick Dillon
Jambar Contributor

Alan Mirkin is a student in the College for the Over Sixty program and enrolled to give himself more to do during retirement.

"When you retire, and all of a sudden you wake up in the morning and there's nothing on your plate, you have to do something to fill your time," Mirkin said.

For 26 years, Youngstown State University's Over Sixty program has offered free attendance to anyone over the age of 60 who has lived in Ohio for at least a year. Students pay a \$5 registration fee and a nearly \$100 fee for online classes.

Over Sixty students who meet certain Federal Poverty Level Guidelines can earn degrees.

Students in the program can enroll in classes without having to take tests or do any assignments, but they aren't able to earn a degree. They have a wide variety of courses to choose from, except graduate-level courses or music and voice lessons.

Darla Ferradino, who's been the program's coordinator of registration since 2022, said she finds it rewarding to hear of the growth the Over Sixty students achieve during their time with the program.

"Sometimes they come in just to meet me and say, 'Hello,' and tell me that they're enjoying their classes, so that's a lot of fun for me. I like to know that I've helped them and that they're enjoying

themselves," Ferradino said.

The program has seen 195 enrollees since 2021 — 75 of whom are repeat participants. Mirkin joined the program with two of his friends in spring 2023, and said class has become a way for them to bond.

"We go together and we go to lunch afterwards," Mirkin said. "It became part of our routine."

Mirkin said he enjoys the time in the program and has no plans of stopping any time soon.

"Hopefully it won't stop for a long time, and I'll be healthy and able to get to the classes. It's a great use of my time," Mirkin said. "As long as I am able to go, I'll go."

At 70-years-old, Mirkin said he enjoys the contrast of the current state of college education compared to his time spent in college. Years prior, Mirkin graduated from Ohio University with a degree in accounting.

"We are sitting here discussing what is history to [the students], to what we actually went through. That's really fascinating. I'm getting insights from the kids that I never thought about. It really opens your eyes up," Mirkin said.

Mirkin said he also appreciates being able to attend college lectures without the added pressure of needing to succeed to earn a degree.

"The best part is, I don't do homework, I don't write papers and I don't take tests," Mirkin said. "You get the upside of education without the downside of having to do the nasty stuff."



Photo by Mick Dillon / Jambar Contributor

Two students in the College for the Over Sixty program.

News Brief

YSU women retirees to offer scholarship

Women Retirees of Youngstown State University are accepting applications through March 1 for the 2025-26 academic year.

The scholarship is awarded to a full-time, junior female student who has maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA. The recipient must be a U.S. citizen and enrolled in a degree-seeking program at YSU.

Information about the scholarship process is available at www.ysu.edu/financialaid/scholarships.

Applications can be printed from the website or picked up at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship located on the second floor of Meshel Hall.

PUNTING PENGUINS



Brendon Kilpatrick is the first YSU punter to receive POTY.



Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

Kilpatrick tabbed as POTY

By Kevin Skolny
Jambar Contributor

Redshirt junior Brendon Kilpatrick, a player on Youngstown State University's football team, was the recipient of the 2024 Football Championship Subdivision Punter of the Year award.

Kilpatrick was chosen by the Augusta Sports Council Board of Directors on Dec. 16, 2024.

"It means a lot. It was definitely a good day," Kilpatrick said. "I got the one I really cared about, that meant a lot to me."

Kilpatrick is the first Penguin to receive this honor from the council, and along the way set a YSU record

for the longest-average punt distance in a season at 46 yards per punt.

"I grew up playing a lot of different sports, but once I got into high school, I was trying out kicking and punting and I found out I could play if I did this," Kilpatrick said. "I started taking reps with the varsity guys, but I wasn't a big fan of the hitting part."

Kilpatrick was designated as a redshirt freshman when he came to YSU in 2021, but did not get his first full season of action until 2023.

"Most coaches would say I would overkick," Kilpatrick said. "I've had plenty of overuse injuries, which our trainers did a great job to help me through. But if you want to be better at punting and kicking, you have to

punt and kick."

According to ysusports.com, during his first campaign in 2023, Kilpatrick had a total of 1,996 yards of distance on 46 punts. 10 were more than 50 yards with 16 landing inside the 20-yard line — an average of 43 yards per punt.

In 2024, those numbers improved across the board with less total punts, as he trotted out 40 times and totaled 1,838 yards. 14 of the punts were over 50 yards and 19 landed inside the 20-yard line.

His average increased to 46 yards per punt, with his two longest being a pair of two 65-yard boots against Villanova University in week one and at South Dakota State University during week seven.

"It becomes a bit easier to work harder when you have that taste in your mouth of what success might be like," Kilpatrick said. "Some guys might feel like you earned something, but I didn't want to take it like that. I just put my head down and worked harder, and it worked out in the end."

Kilpatrick said he's going to build on his success for next year.

"I want to do everything I can, being my fifth year and feeling so young still," Kilpatrick said. "Any opportunity that comes my way, I'd love to chase it, and that's what I'm going to do next year — chase it — that's my goal."

Internship Opportunity

CITY

CIVIC INNOVATION TRANSFORMING YOUNGSTOWN

CITY is a paid 8-week summer internship where YSU students work together to identify creative solutions to some of Youngstown's most pressing issues.

Interns get to better know the city through community engaged learning and weekly site visits, wrapping up the experience by presenting their solutions to the community.



Scan to apply
on Handshake



Penguins need to warm up

By Emily Wilaj
Jambar Contributor



"My favorite place to warm up on campus is the Rec Center, but specifically the upstairs track,"

— **Samantha Cox**,
Education and musical theatre dual major



My favorite place to warm up on campus is inside the [Michael and Suellen Weir Atrium],"

— **Katie Buttar**,
Marketing major



My favorite place to warm up on campus might actually be the room I am in right now, which is the lobby of Tod Hall,"

— **Ellie Maurice**
Marketing major

BANDS BATTLE

Westside face off

By AnnaBelle Boone
The Jambar

After a hiatus, Youngstown State University's Penguin Productions brought back the Federal Frenzy Face-Off. The event began at 8 p.m. Feb. 7 at Westside Bowl, as six bands competed for a guaranteed spot to perform at Federal Frenzy later this year.

The six bands were all from a variety of genres.

TheHeartBreakKings are a music duo formed in 2020. The band's songs are available on all major streaming platforms, including Apple Music and Spotify. As a blend of pop and hip hop, its music offers a unique combination for listeners.

LARIE is a rock band based in Geneva known for strong instrumentation and warm melodies. The band is influenced by early '90s grunge and punk rock, while simultaneously drawing influence from The Beatles.

Jacob Dombroski, a Youngstown native, was also in attendance. Dombroski was awarded the 2022 Best Live Performance at the Youngstown Marathon.

Dombroski previously worked with another Federal Frenzy performer — Franklin Dead Rose — on the track "Trench In The Sun - Alternative Version." He also auditioned for America's Got Talent and was featured on SiriusXM Turbo.

Formed in the spring of 2022, Current Collides sports a brand of high-energy alternative rock. The band performed a mix of originals and covers.

Mateo Santiago is the newest performer on the stage with his solo project Tay-O. Drummer Wes Philips joined the duo in May 2024.

The night closed out with Nineteenth Paradise, a Youngstown-based band combining aspects of hard rock, punk and alternative music to its style.

The crowd was a mix of YSU students and other members of the community. Sierra Arnal, a current graduate student in the data science and statistics program, said she was excited about the event.

"Federal Frenzy was so fun last year," Arnal said. "I thought this was a great event to go to, because of how well done Frenzy was. The drinks and food were all just amazing."

The event also featured blue tickets given to each YSU student, who voted on their favorite act. TheHeartBreakKings won the face-off and earned a spot on the lineup for Federal Frenzy.

This year's Federal Frenzy plans to bring a band marketplace to the event, where fans can buy merchandise and support their favorite acts.

The event will also expand from one to two days, and begins April 25-26.



Several bands battled it out for a spot in the lineup for Federal Frenzy.

Celebrating Black history through art



The pieces of art are displayed on the second floor of Bliss Hall.

Photos by Jacqueline Arroyo / The Jambar

By Jacqueline Arroyo
The Jambar

Black History Month continues at Youngstown State University as the Judith Rae Solomon Gallery showcases Crystal Miller's work on Afrofuturism.

Miller is a mixed-media artist who began creating at a young age. She holds an associate degree in graphic design and a bachelor's degree in painting, sculpture and expanded media from the Cleveland Institute of Art.

She said most of her art is about creating a space where everyone can feel like themselves, which Miller conveys through the material and colors of her work.

"I look at a lot of Black fashion photography, I'll look at fashion magazines — it's kind of like what I get my inspiration for, like the subjects that I paint," Miller said. "I will collage images together to create a new image that's kind of like my reference photo."

Once a reference photo is created, the process of start-

ing the work varies. Miller said she skips around, painting or applying materials depending on her mood.

"The painting will try to speak to me in a weird way where it'll kind of tell me like these are the kind of materials that I want to put on me," Miller said.

Some of the materials Miller uses include gems to signify jewelry, such as rings or necklaces. For hair, she uses molding paste to create texture, adding depth for the viewer.

When asked why her work is so vibrant, Miller said that when she thinks about Black culture, celebration and Afrofuturism, she envisions bright colors.

Another reason her subjects appear vibrant is the undertones she uses on the skin, which she wants to amplify in her work.

Miller said she prefers vibrancy over representational color because Black skin comes in many different shades. She feels color allows for a richer portrayal and hopes that is what people take away when they see her

work.

"I want them to hopefully appreciate black culture more, to appreciate Black women more, hopefully change perspectives on Afrofuturism," Miller said.

The final step in completing her work is creating the frame. The approach and materials for the frame differ from the artwork itself.

"I will use a lot of materials that are really referential to my childhood. Like tulle and ribbon," Miller said. "Ribbon is kind of symbolic for celebration and tulle is symbolic for when I was younger. My mom would put me in tutus and stuff,"

YSU reached out to Miller about her work and wanted to include it in its Black History Month celebrations, giving her the opportunity to connect with other students and people around her age.

Miller's work will be on display from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Feb. 3-28. The exhibit is located in Bliss Hall and is free to students, faculty, staff and the public.

Penguin Book Nook with The Public Library



Nonfiction review

Girl Dinner: 85 Snack Plates & Hassle-free Meals

by Alejandra Diaz-Imlah

Anyone can throw together whatever they have lying around, but with Diaz-Imlah's pop culture inspired cookbook, you can take Girl Dinner to the next level. These scrappy takes on snacks, meals, and table spreads will make you think outside the box without feeling overwhelmed or uninspired.



Fiction review

Woo Woo

by Ella Baxter

Told shrouded with a veil of humor and pseudorealism, this novel follows Sabine. A conceptual artist, she anticipates a photo exhibit she hopes will launch her into success, obtaining the validation she has always craved. Looking to her husband, TikTok followers, and personal stalker for support in the meantime, Sabine finds herself down-spiraling further as her grip on desperation consumes her.

Upcoming programs

Saturday, Feb. 15

2:30 p.m.

Journey into VR: Unleash Your Imagination

Monday, Feb. 17

11 a.m.

Mystery Monday Book Club

Monday, Feb. 24

5 p.m.

Monochrome Movie Monday

Visit 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, meet us at 305 Wick Ave. or call the library at (330) 744-8636.

Have something to say to The Jambar?

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Email The Jambar at

thejambar@gmail.com

The Jambar Column

No free freedom

A couple of days ago, I was listening to the highly acclaimed album “Entertainment!” by Gang of Four. If you’ve never heard of the album or the Gang, I highly recommend checking them out. If you like danceable punk music with solid, meaningful lyrics, this is the album for you.

Now, there’s one particular track on the album, “Not Great Men,” which discusses the Great Man Theory — history is shaped by “great men.” Listening to this song made me think, are there any great men left? Are there even any good men left?

In nearly two years of writing for The Jambar, I’ve done my best to remain unbiased in my columns. Generally, I try to stick to writing about music and funny stuff that happened to me. But right now, there’s nothing funny going on in the world and I must talk about it.

America has taken a far-right shift. This isn’t some whiny preaching from a loudmouth radical leftist — this is just a simple fact. America, the country that no more than 80 years ago fought and defeated the fascists, has accepted the fascists as its own.

Since Jan. 20, a certain powerful politician has done nothing more than make the worst possible decisions imaginable. From executive orders that ban transgender individuals from serving in the military to his disastrous tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, he continues to make the worst decisions.

This politician’s association with a certain unqualified billionaire continues to jeopardize not only the job security of millions of federal employees but also the privacy of Americans no different than you or me. Would you want a billionaire to know all of your private information? Me neither.

Ohio, a red state through and through, also continues to introduce the worst



Matthew Sotlar

possible laws. House Bill 8 is our very own “Don’t Say Gay” bill. This means that if a student feels comfortable enough to come out as LGBTQ+ to their teacher, the teacher must inform the child’s parents of this. Call me a hippie, but this is pure evil.

If a child feels comfortable enough to confide in someone that they are gay, telling the child’s parents might be the worst decision. It not only shatters the trust of the child, but it puts them in a potentially dangerous situation at home. To the representatives who wrote and promoted this bill, shame on you.

Shame on anyone who thinks someone should be treated less for who they choose to love, the color of their skin, the God they choose or the country they or their parents were born in. I’m a very tolerant person, though I will never tolerate intolerance.

Many of these Republicans are supporting executive orders and state bills that run on “American values” and “Christian values,” yet they choose to go directly against everything that Jesus Christ preached. In fact, if Christ were walking around today, he’d be plastered as a “whiny liberal” or some other tired, hateful trope.

There are no great men, at least not now. Certainly not politicians or businessmen, definitely not anyone who believes in the oppression of others. But there are clear skies on the horizon.

Somewhere out there is a great person — a man or woman who will stand up for the rights of everyone, no matter who they are. If one of those great men has to be me, Matt Sotlar, then so be it.

The Jambar Editorial

Time to save daylight

When the Christmas spirit fades and the temperature drops below zero, winter is a gloomy time of year. Barren trees, muddy snow and slick roads come with early nights that make the day feel as if it’s over before it begins.

Daylight saving time causes clocks to shift an hour forward. Beginning the second Sunday in March, an extra hour of daylight can be observed until the first Sunday in November, when clocks reset to standard time.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, daylight saving time was created during World War I when the Standard Time Act of 1918 was signed into law, but repealed less than two years later.

The law was reintroduced during World War II to help conserve fuel and create a sense of national well-being. This period was called “war time” and was repealed Sept. 30, 1945.

“For the next two decades, there were no set rules for daylight saving time, which caused a lot of confusion for the transportation and broadcast industries,” the DOD stated. “That changed for good in 1966, when Congress passed the Uniform Time Act that set a national standard time.”

Although it has been 59 years since this decision, many states recently enacted legislation to make daylight saving time permanent.

According to the National Council of State Legislatures, Florida became the first state to enact legislation regarding the issue in 2018. Although the Uniform Time Act allows states to use permanent standard time, Congress would need to alter federal law to allow permanent daylight saving time.

“20 states have enacted legislation or passed resolutions to provide for year-round daylight saving time,” NCSL stated. “Because federal law does not currently allow full-time DST, Congress would have to act before states could adopt changes.”

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine published an article in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine covering the effects of daylight saving time.

The AASM credits both a decrease in crime rates and in motor vehicle crash risks to daylight saving time. Although these results are positive, there could be negative risks including “social jet lag,” which is the disruption of a person’s internal clock and its effects on the body.

“There is evidence that the body clock does not adjust to DST even after several months. Permanent DST could therefore result in permanent phase delay,” the article stated. “Social jet lag is associated with an increased risk of obesity, metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease and depression.”

The article refers to the 1973 oil embargo enacted by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which caused year-round daylight saving time. During this period, child fatalities increased as the night sky lasted into the morning, increasing the risk of accidents while traveling to school.

“Increased fatalities among school-aged children in the morning were noted between January and April,” the article stated.

With many states pushing for permanent daylight saving time, the odds of Congress changing federal law may be increasing.

Penguin Picks by

Love in downtown Youngstown

By **Elise Ramos and John Ostapowicz**
The Jambar

With Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, restaurants near the campus of Youngstown State University offer a wide variety of cuisines and beverages for the special occasion.

Whether it's date night or a solo affair, three restaurants fit the bill for a classy, extravagant and fitting touch for a special evening.

Elise Ramos, an investigative reporter at The Jambar, attended West 34 located on 34 West Federal St. West 34 is a modern American restaurant and bar offering a wide variety of menu options for the holidays.

For Valentine's Day, West 34 curated a cocktail menu that takes inspiration from the holiday. The restaurant offers a signature cocktail, "Too Hot to Handle," priced at \$10.

The food itself is relatively affordable with popular appetizers such as creole shrimp for \$13 and crab florentine for \$17, which is made with Maryland blue crab and artichokes.

For the main courses, the cajun-chicken pasta is a great choice for \$21 with farfalle noodles and blackened chicken. The white cheddar cheeseburger for \$15 is an-

other heavy hitter.

John Ostapowicz, Editor-in-Chief of The Jambar, tried one of Youngstown's oldest restaurants — Cassese's MVR. The locally owned Italian restaurant is located on 410 North Walnut St. close to the University Courtyard Apartments.

As a student who lives on campus, the MVR is within walking distance and has quick service. It also features custom dishes for some of YSU's most iconic figures.

Former YSU President and football Head Coach Jim Tressel is on the menu twice with the "Coach's Cajun Chicken" and "Tressel Tortellini." The tortellini is a personal favorite because of the fluffy taste of the cheesy noodles, mixed with the restaurant's house basil sauce.

Pete The Penguin also has a feature dish with the "Penguin Burger Basket," which is a half-pound burger patty served with American cheese, lettuce, tomato and onion on an Italian roll — a Youngstown inspired spin on a classic cheeseburger.

From handheld food to a cutlery affair, MVR caters to all on Valentine's Day.

Both Ostapowicz and Ramos attended Casa di Canzonetta, formerly Bistro 1907. The classy upscale restaurant requires formal attire and is connected to the

DoubleTree by Hilton Youngstown.

The cost for Canzonetta is rather pricey with a grand total for a couple averaging above \$120 without gratuity. Despite the high price tag, the restaurant has arguably the best food out of the three places based on several key factors.

For starters, the "Sweet Ricotta Board" for \$18, a charcuterie of ricotta with prosciutto, roasted pistachios, pomegranate and rosemary, was flavorsome with a hint of sweetness.

The dish made for an intimate experience, especially paired with a "Tavola salad" — homemade focaccia breadcrumbs topped with a house chianti vinaigrette — and Italiana onion soup.

For the main courses, Ramos ordered cheese tortellini for \$28 and Ostapowicz ordered chicken marsala for \$32. Both dishes were perfectly seasoned, well-prepared and the proportion sizes were plentiful.

Whether it's a one-night stay or a weekend-long endeavor, downtown Youngstown offers several different places to take oneself or a significant other to on Valentine's Day.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

1, 2, 3, 4, 5!

Chris has all inclusive houses and apartments, featuring all kitchen appliances with washers and dryers.

All sizes available now thru 2026 starting at \$595 per person, per month.

Call for tours: 330-233-0044

THE JAMBAR POLICY

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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 business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

Penguins waddle to Texas

By Teziah Howard
The Jambar

The start of the 2025 season has the Youngstown State University baseball team traveling to Waco, Texas for a three-day competition against Baylor University. The first game is set to begin at 4 p.m Feb. 14.

The team looks to rewrite the script and improve on last season, when it lost 44 games. The Penguins finished last season with a 9-21 record in the Horizon League.

YSU opens its seasons back-to-back in Texas. In 2024, Youngstown State faced Texas State University for a three-day competition. The Bobcats fired on all cylinders and dominated the Penguins in the first matchup, with a score of 20-2.

Although the second and third matchup did not hold as much scoring for Texas State, the outcome remained in the Bobcats' favor. Texas State won its second game over Youngstown State 6-1 and won the third 11-1.

Despite a losing season last year, the Penguins received several preseason accolades for 2025. Seniors Kyle Fossum and Jacob Gehring were each named to Perfect Game's Horizon League Preseason All-Conference Team.

Gehring was named First-Team All-Horizon League selection as a junior in 2024. Fossum, in his first year as a Penguin, is not alone as YSU added 21 newcomers to the roster since the 2024 season.

Fossum played over 30 games and made 14 starts at the University of Washington, before he found his home in northeast Ohio. The team will look to its veterans for leadership as the Penguins return 19 players to the program.

The Penguins added another newcomer, who is now at the helm of the YSU baseball team. First-year Head Coach Trevor Charpie is a former minor league pitcher who previously coached at Golden West College.

In an interview with ysusports.com, Sharpie expressed his gratitude to his background for shaping the

opportunity to lead the team.

"I am so blessed and grateful to be named head baseball coach at Youngstown State University," Charpie stated. "I would like to thank all the coaches and players I have had the chance to be alongside and who have helped me reach this point."

As Youngstown State gears up for the start of its season, some Penguins may be gearing up for the next level after collegiate sports.

The YSU baseball team has six athletes ranked amongst the top MLB draft prospects in the Horizon League by Perfect Game USA.

Redshirt senior JJ Tylicki was ranked the Horizon League's No. 2 prospect. Joining him in the top 15 was Gehring and Fossum at No. 10 and No. 12, respectively.

The Penguins rounded out the top 25 with junior Brayden Kuriger and redshirt junior Garrett Cutting, who ranked No. 17 and No. 25, respectively. Freshman Tyler Heflin was listed as the No. 1 draft prospect for the class of 2027.

After the three-game series against Baylor, the Penguins will travel back to Texas the following week to face Abilene Christian University for a four-game series. The team will not see a home game until the middle of March.

The series against Baylor will be televised on ESPN+.

Softball swings into opening

By Marissa Masano
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University softball team opened its 2025 season by competing Feb. 7-9 in the Wofford Tournament at Spartanburg, South Carolina. Coming off a Horizon League regular-season championship, the Penguins return with 15 letterwinners and five starters.

Fifth-year senior Elyssa Imler, the 2024 Horizon League Player of the Year and an All-Horizon League First-Team selection, returns to the program. Sophomores Lydia Wilkerson and Macy Littler, who earned spots on last season's All-Freshman Team, also add depth to the roster.

The Horizon League released its 2025 Under Armour Preseason Poll on Feb. 5,

where YSU was projected to finish third. Cleveland State University secured the top spot, receiving eight first-place votes.

Prior to the tournament Head Coach Brian Campbell spoke about the youth of the roster.

"What it brings is these older players teaching the younger players," Campbell said. "I can say this year we are a young team. When you lose six of your nine starters on the field."

The Penguins opened tournament play against the University of Dayton, coming off an Atlantic 10 Conference regular-season title and its first conference championship. Dayton was also predicted to repeat as A-10 champions in 2025.

YSU dropped its season opener to the Flyers, 6-0. Imler recorded the Penguins' lone hit. Dayton got on the board in the second inning when freshman Mickie

Shively singled and drove in a run.

Sophomore Autumn Behlke started on the mound for YSU, allowing five hits and five runs while facing 19 batters. Freshman Kelsey Ogin relieved Behlke and faced 13 batters, surrendered three hits and one run.

In the second game of the day, the Penguins fell to Towson University in five innings, 13-3. Freshman Ayla Ray led the team with two hits and one run, while Wilkerson and redshirt junior Bree Kohler each added a run.

YSU held a 2-1 lead after the first inning, but Towson shut out the Penguins in the second and put up four runs to take the lead. The Tigers then scored eight runs in the fourth inning to seal the win.

YSU lost 5-2 to tournament host Wofford College on Day Two. Littler and sophomore Lauryn Swanson each scored

a run for the Penguins. Wofford's offense was led by Rivers Sampson, who recorded three hits and two runs.

In the second matchup against Dayton, YSU fell 8-1. Sophomore Reese Campbell-Schaller scored the Penguins' lone run. Ogin started

for YSU, facing 25 batters and allowing 11 hits and eight runs.

The Penguins closed out the tournament with a 5-2 loss to Towson. Ray and junior Ellie Hardman each crossed the plate for YSU.

Towson opened the scoring in the bottom of the second with two runs batted in. YSU responded in the top of the fourth when Schaller's RBI allowed Hardman to score. The Penguins tied the game at 2-2 in the fifth after a Kohler double.

However, Towson pulled away in the bottom of the sixth, capitalizing on two home runs to secure the victory. Wofford won the tournament with a 4-1 record over the weekend.

Youngstown State will return to action at the Winthrop Tournament, set for Feb. 21-23 in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

FARMER REAPS REWARDS

Three-point success ignites Penguins



Gabe Dynes (left) and Jason Nelson (right) helped the Penguins win two-straight games.

Photos courtesy of ysusports.com

By Cameron Mitchell
The Jambar

With a few games left in the 2024-25 Youngstown State University basketball season, the Penguins recorded an 84-75 win over Oakland University on Feb. 6 at OU Credit Union O'Rena.

Against the Golden Grizzlies, senior EJ Farmer led the game with 25 points, which marked his fourth consecutive game with 20 points or more. Farmer went 8 of 17 from the field and scored 16 of his 25 points in the second half.

Joining Farmer in the scoring column was junior Julian Maxey, who piled on another 19 points with four three pointers. Adding to the night, fifth-year senior Nico Galette claimed a double double with 10 points and 12 rebounds.

Junior Cris Carroll also had a double-figure night with 10 points and seven rebounds, which helped the Penguins rise on top of Oakland.

The 'Guins led the game for over 37 minutes and headed into halftime, 38-32. After the half, Oakland cut the Penguins' lead down to four within the first few seconds of the second half.

Galette went coast-to-coast and slammed it down for a dunk. Youngstown State's 46-36 lead was assisted by two free throws from Farmer and another bucket from Galette.

The Golden Grizzlies tested the Penguins, bringing their lead down to seven points before Farmer drilled another three pointer at the 3:19 mark.

After Youngstown State's win over Oakland, the Penguins traveled to the University of Detroit Mercy on Feb. 8. With over 1,000 in attendance, the 'Guins posted another win over the Titans 87-72.

With the victory, Youngstown State improves to 16-10 overall and 10-5 in Horizon League play.

Maxey led Youngstown State with 21 points, four rebounds, two assists and a career-best, six three pointers.

In the first half, the Penguins went 9 of 15 from the three-point line and 14 of 24 from the paint. As a team, Youngstown State ended the game 27 of 58 from the field and 16 of 34 from deep.

The Penguins' 16 three pointers tied the Horizon League record for the third-most three pointers in a game.

As a whole, the Titans shot 56.3% from inside the paint and cut the Penguins lead to 10, three separate times.

Fifth-year senior Ty Harper opened the second half with multiple three pointers, giving YSU a 20-point lead.

With over three minutes remaining, Maxey hit his sixth three pointer of the game, which made the score 80-64.

In the final minute of the game, Carroll recorded a three pointer to secure back-to-back victories for the Penguins.

Youngstown State returned home for one game against Purdue University-Fort Wayne at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12. For more information on the matchup visit ysusports.com.

YSU hits the road for a game against Cleveland State University at 2 p.m. Feb. 16. The game will be broadcasted on ESPNU and 570 WKBN.

Linear Penguins

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Horizon League announced Feb. 10 that the Youngstown State University men's basketball team's matchup against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has flexed from ESPN+ to ESPNU.

The matchup is scheduled for 9 p.m. Feb. 21 at Zidian Family Arena inside Beeghly Center. The game's theme is a Red Out and all fans are encouraged to wear red in support of YSU.

The selection marks the second time this season the Penguins were selected for a linear television game, and the fifth time in the last three seasons.

The Penguins could potentially see another linear ESPN broadcast March 1 against Northern Kentucky University on the road. Although no final decision has been made by the Horizon League.

Penguins fall in sudden death

By Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributor

In a Friday night matchup to kick off the season, the Youngstown State University women's lacrosse team finished its match in sudden death against Lindenwood University, inside the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

Following an 0-16 season, Head Coach Rob Harris looked for his first win at the Division I level.

Last season, YSU was ranked No. 124 in the NCAA Rating Percentage Index — one of the worst teams in the nation. Lindenwood found itself at No. 68, with an appearance in the Atlantic Sun Conference tournament.

Despite being heavy underdogs in the contest, the 'Guins jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead five minutes into the match, following goals from sophomores Katie Grottenthaler and Brooke Peck.

Youngstown State is heavily led by its lower-years, with a total of 22 freshmen and sophomores, while only having five juniors and three seniors.

Lindenwood answered with a goal from junior Luci Selander — who finished the game with nine points.

Youngstown State found its rhythm on offense as it scored three-straight times on the Lions.

Freshman Claire Baenziger recorded her first collegiate goal, while Peck picked up her second. Sophomore Lena Cox also scored for the 'Guins to give YSU a 5-1 lead late in the first quarter.

The quarter ended with a 6-2 lead for YSU, after Grottenthaler scored with a woman up at the end of the first 15 minutes.

The second quarter saw a 5-2 run for Lindenwood, including two goals for Selander. The two

goals for Youngstown State were scored by Peck and sophomore Mia Yuris.

The game hit halftime with the score at 8-7, and shaped up for a closely contested second half.

Peck and Grottenthaler scored early in the third quarter to give the 'Guins a three-point advantage. Baenziger found the back of the cage for her second goal of the season, tying YSU's largest lead of the day at four.

Only one more goal would be scored in the third, and it was none other than Selander of the Lions who cut the lead to 11-8.

Two goals for each side opened up the fourth quarter, as Selander scored and assisted on a goal. Baenziger got her hat trick with a third goal of the match and Grottenthaler tallied her fourth goal of the season.

Lindenwood called a timeout with 4:27 to go in the contest, down 13-10.

The Lions scored three-straight goals — their final goal of regulation came with 2:24 to go in the contest.

The game carried into a sudden death match, where Lindenwood wasted no time. In just 10 seconds, the Lions won the opening draw control and scored to win the match 14-13 over the Penguins.

Grottenthaler and Peck both finished the game with four goals, while Baenziger garnered her first hat trick in her first collegiate game. Junior Brooke Harper saved seven goals in the loss.

YSU's Feb. 12 match against The George Washington University was postponed to a later date because of inclement weather.

The team's next game will be against St. Bonaventure University at 12 p.m. Feb. 15 in Loretto, Pennsylvania.



The YSU lacrosse team looks for its first win since April 22, 2023.

Photos courtesy of Bryson Chavez