



# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of  
Youngstown State University  
since 1931.



## PAGE 4 TV is back — See which shows return with new episodes (finally)

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**WEATHER**

Today	☁	48° 33°
Friday	☁	44° 35°
Saturday	☁	40° 24°
Sunday	☁	49° 29°
Monday	☁	51° 36°
Tuesday	☁	42° 32°
Wednesday	☀	45° 30°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

**SOCIETY**

### Crimes against classroom civility

#### Students say they text, talk, sleep in class

Sarah Sole  
News Editor

Junior Erin Hill, a music major, was watching students perform Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" when the unthinkable happened: In between sets, someone's cell phone went off, as everyone turned and glared at the perpetrator.

"If there's one thing that you don't do, it's leave your cell phone on something audible in the recital hall," Hill said.

Though some may share Hill's opinion, rules governing classroom etiquette at are not set in stone anywhere, at least figuratively speaking. In The Jambar's non-scientific survey, however, 150 students at Youngstown State University weighed in on their opinions regarding student activity during class such as text messaging, talking on cell phones, sleeping, or whispering or talking to others.

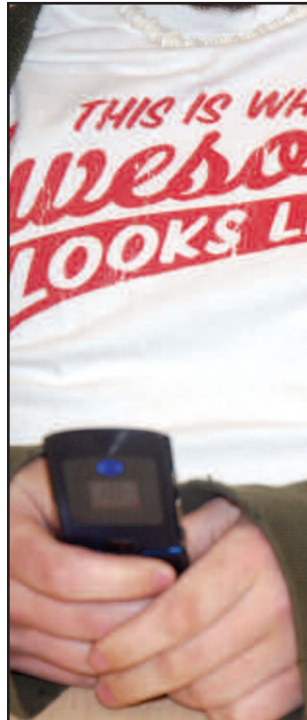
While text messaging proved to be the most rampant action in classrooms, students deemed it acceptable. On the other hand (with cell phone attached), the most disturbing action in a classroom setting is talking on cell phones, according to 65 out of 130 surveyed students.

Hill agreed, labeling phone chatter as the rudest action in class.

"That makes me glad I never see it," she said.

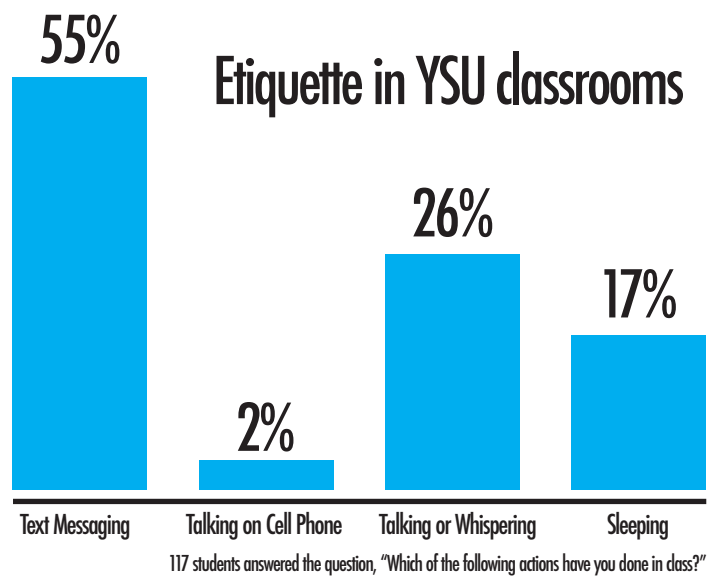
Hill said she understands if students have to ask questions about things during class via text messaging, and said she doesn't find classroom text messaging as bothersome as talking on the phone. Most people have the touchtone turned off on cell phones, she said, which is fine.

Dan O'Neill, professor of communication at YSU, said text messaging is popular because it can be done without being easily detected. If he were to see a student



PHOTOS BY BRIAN CETINA / THE JAMBAR

In the survey, more than half of students admitted to texting in class.



CIVILITY page 2

**ADMINISTRATION**

### Dean candidate promises to create vision together

Adrienne Sabo  
Editor in Chief

The second candidate for the dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts visited campus Tuesday and Wednesday. At an open forum with students, faculty and staff, candidate Dennis Rich said he was "a bit overwhelmed."

Before addressing any questions, he said Youngstown State University is an exciting place to be and has interesting challenges ahead. As dean, Rich said he would be involved in making art or making art possible.

When it comes to having an understanding of other disciplines in the college, Rich said he thinks he does.

"Any dean who can say, 'I understand every one of the disciplines in the college equally' is lying."

As for his vision of the college if he were hired as dean, Rich called vision a collaboration and not something done by one person.

"The way we create vision is together. I don't want to be the guy



Dennis Rich, candidate for dean of College of Fine and Performing Arts

"The way we create vision is together. I don't want to be the guy who says, 'This is what I see, and this is what we do.'"

who says, "This is what I see, and this is what we do."

Rich said he hopes the college would be on the forefront with its vision and still committed to excellence.

"I wouldn't be sitting here at this moment if I didn't see opportunity."

Funding for the college was another issue Rich addressed. He said it is an issue that all of the arts and all colleges have faced. He acknowledged that it is an issue that he would be confronted with, if hired.

"I don't want to say we keep doing miracles on a shoestring," he said.

As for why he wants to come to YSU, Rich said the challenges are what intrigue him about the position. "I think I'm ready for a new challenge, in all honesty."

A part of YSU's mission is community engagement, and Rich said it is something the college already does well. YSU has a "huge responsibility to the area," but the problem is still funding for some of these initiatives.

An instructor at the forum asked Rich if he would work to maintain

the college the way it is, or work to transform it into something better.

Rich responded, saying, "Maintaining is one of the most boring things I can imagine." He said he would like to settle into the position and then work on improving the college, but only with the help of the faculty and staff.

"Yes, I want to talk to you before making any changes."

During his two days at YSU, Rich said he noticed passion, commitment and opportunity here, and that is something for the university to keep.

**JOBS**

### Employers say they look at professionalism, even in your voicemail, e-mail

Ashley Tate  
News Reporter

Inappropriate or unprofessional voicemail greetings or e-mail addresses can be a deal breaker between employers and potential employees.

"Hey, this is Jarrod. Leave me a message or leave me alone. Either way, it don't matter."

That's the message callers get when Jarrod Garcia, a junior at Youngstown State University, doesn't answer his cell phone.

Bernie Cummins, director of Career and Counseling Services, said tact is an important part of the

communication process between students and potential employers.

"Employers respond to the quality of an answering machine. They can be cute or clever but that doesn't work to your advantage. You want it to communicate a sense of maturity and professionalism on your part," he said.

Cummins said employers still talk about voicemail greetings and e-mail addresses that aren't business savvy during panel discussions, but employers say they aren't as big of a problem as they used to be.

Garcia said he would change his voicemail if an employer wanted him to but he would still try to make it "not boring."

He said he previously had a greeting on his phone from the Cartoon Network show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force."

He said there was a special feature on the DVD where one could choose voicemails for his or her phone and the one he chose was from the character Master Shake.

"My mom hated it. It was, like, three to five minutes long. She would want to leave a message and she didn't," he said.

Garcia said employers shouldn't take voicemails so seriously.

"Honestly, if they get offended by something that stupid then they need to lighten up and have fun," he said. "If you can't have fun at what

you do then you shouldn't do it. Life's not all black and white."

E-mail addresses can pose problems as well.

Junior Sarah Eskay said she has a few e-mail addresses, but there's one she definitely would not use to send resumes and cover letters to employers.

Don Lorenzo, a brand of rum, is part of one of Eskay's e-mail addresses. She said she chose it because she thought it was a funny name for rum that someone can buy in the Bahamas.

When it comes to her voicemail, Eskay's greeting is, "Hey, this is Sarah. Can't pick up my phone right now. Call ya back."

**ACADEMICS**

### Withdrawal deadline looms today

J. Breen Mitchell  
Reporter

Today is the last day Youngstown State University students have to withdraw from classes without penalty. Those who withdraw by today will receive a "W." Anyone who withdraws from a class after that date will receive an "F" for the course or courses they drop.

According to the Office of the Registrar, today marks the point in the semester that students should be able to determine whether or not they will be able to complete the required coursework for each classes that they are taking.

"They have 60 percent of each semester to withdraw with a 'W,'" said Jeannie Herman, associate registrar.

If students try to withdraw after today, they will fail any classes that they drop.

"On March 28, if you try to withdraw, it's an automatic 'F,'" Herman said.

But getting a "W" on a transcript may be as bad as getting an "F" for pre-law students.

"If you go into law school a withdrawal transmits as a zero, so we are still penalized for it," said junior Mark Petiya.

Students may withdraw through the SOLAR system for the rest of this semester, until the switch over the summer to Banner, a new software system.

Herman said that the 60-percent mark has worked well as a deadline for withdrawal.

"I don't think we've ever had a student complain that it's not enough time," she said. "Sometimes students will physically withdraw, stop going to class and never get around to actually making the withdrawal."

Herman said she has seen students forget to withdraw in time because they are too busy with other things.

Sophomore Corie Baker is one of those busy students, but she withdrew in time.

"I basically had to withdraw last week because I didn't have time for the class along with all my other classes," Baker said. "I transferred from Kent State and didn't realize the math class here was so much harder. Everything was messed up financially because of transferring."

Herman said that most students who withdraw from classes do so because of changes in their work schedule, or for academic reasons, because they don't feel they will be able to pass the class once they see what the workload will entail.

"Students sometimes feel they are in over their head and they just need to lighten their load."

But before, it was something completely different.

"I used to have something from 'Family Guy' on there but I changed it because my dad yelled at me and said no one wants to wait a minute or longer to leave a voicemail," Eskay said.

She said her voicemail was from a scene from the cartoon where Stewie, a baby, was trying to get the attention of his mother, Lois, by repeatedly saying, "Mama. Lois. Lois. Mama."

Some students try to maintain voicemail greetings and e-mail addresses that are career appropriate so that they aren't overlooked

RESUME page 2



# Faculty:

The Jambar wants to know about your most interesting classes for fall, in your words.

Are you teaching a class about UFOs, showing students how to ferment beer, or using the Kama Sutra as a text book?

E-mail us at  
thejambar@gmail.com

Visit us online

www.TheJambar.com

## Looking for the Best Student Job on Campus?

Are you looking for real experience to help land that real job? Then look at the Jambar or Penguin Review. Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming 2008 summer and 2008-09 academic year [August-May] student positions. All positions receive a paid stipend. Applicants will be interviewed by the Student Publication Committee in mid-April.

### Who should apply?

Current students in good standing who are registered for twelve (12) or more hours. Seeking students who are self-motivated with a passion for writing, advertising, design, sales, or photography.

## Applications Now Being Accepted

■ Editor and reporter positions require the successful completion of initial journalism and/or professional writing and editing courses.

■ Advertising and sales positions require the completion of initial business classes in these fields.

■ Design and photography positions seek students having successfully completed initial design or related photography courses.

#### Penguin Review Literary Magazine

■ Editor-in-chief also earns part of his/her tuition.

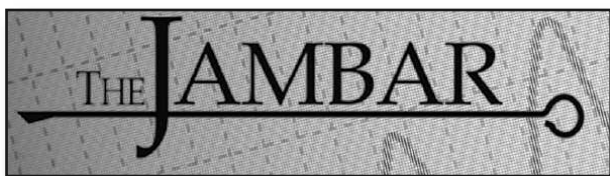
## Where to pick up an application:

Applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. One application applies for both publications—simply check the position(s) you are most interested in.

**Application Deadline: 1pm, Tuesday, April 1, 2008**

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**1 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008.**  
Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.



got an opinion?

Send letters to:  
thejambar@gmail.com

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## Home City Ice

The Home City Ice Co., based in Cleveland, Ohio, has a distribution delivery terminal in Austintown, Ohio. Looking to hire students to work during school and summer break. Excellent pay and flexible scheduling for delivery driver positions. Average \$9.00 to \$14.00 per hour. Please call 1-800-376-5388 or visit [homecityice.com](http://homecityice.com) to submit information online.

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## Williamson College of Business Administration



2:00 p.m. Student Session  
"HR Competencies: Setting the Stage for Success"  
Auditorium in The Butler Institute of American Art

5:30 p.m. Networking  
6:15 p.m. Buffet Dinner  
7:00 p.m. Program  
"The Evolving Role of HR in Today's Global Knowledge Economy"  
DeBartolo Stadium Club in Stambaugh Stadium

## Williamson Symposium Susan R. Meisinger, SPHR

President and Chief Executive Officer  
Society for Human Resource Management  
Alexandria, Virginia

Thursday, March 27, 2008

Meisinger, who has served as President and CEO since March of 2002, previously held the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of SHRM from 1999 to 2002. She also served as Senior Vice President from 1997-1999 and as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs from 1987-1997.

Meisinger frequently serves as an expert on workplace and business issues in the national media and has appeared on CNN, CNNfn and NBC Nightly News. She has been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post and the Wall Street Journal, among other leading national publications.

In addition, Meisinger—with former SHRM President and CEO Mike Losey and University of Michigan business school professor David Ulrich—co-authored and edited "The Future of Human Resource Management," which was published in June by John Wiley & Sons. In the book, 64 thought leaders explore the critical HR issues of today and tomorrow.

The Williamson Symposium Series is free and reservations are required. The 2 p.m. session is open to walk-ins. Please RSVP by registering for the evening presentation at [www.wcoba.ycu.edu](http://www.wcoba.ycu.edu) at Williamson Symposium Meisinger registration or call the Office of Dean at 330-941-3064.

## Society for Human Resource Management

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) is the world's largest professional association devoted to human resource management. Our mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most current and comprehensive resources, and to advance the profession by promoting HR's essential, strategic role. Founded in 1948, SHRM represents more than 225,000 individual members in over 125 countries, and has a network of more than 575 affiliated chapters in the United States, as well as offices in China and India with a staff of over 300.

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TELEVISION

## We now return to your SCHEDULED SEASON

Adam Bickel  
Reporter

The Writers Guild of America has finally come to an agreement with contracts and many television shows are due back soon after months off the air.

"Thank god," Youngstown State University freshman Ashley Himes exclaimed. "I have been dying. I am addicted to 'Grey's Anatomy,' and when that was on break I got hooked on 'Army Wives.'"

Himes said that without either show she has been forced to do homework.

"My grades are better I guess, but I miss Meredith and McDreamy," she said.

Other students said they were similarly affected by the strike.

Senior Chris Simon admits similar symptoms.

"I never knew how obsessed I was with the shows I watched until they were taken away," he said. "I admit it — my name is Chris and I'm a 'Lost' addict."

Other students didn't seem to mind the lack of new episodes over the past few months.

"There was a strike?" joked sophomore Jon Brown.

"Tell you the truth, it really didn't bother me. I work and go to school," he said. "The only TV I have time to watch is sports, and that is because I care to keep up with it."

Brown confessed, however, that he would have protested had college football been on strike.

A project called TV Turnoff Week is calling for Americans to cut back on those shows we just can't live without. They report that the average American watches over seven hours of TV a week.

Leanne Sandroff said that number is low.

"I know I am a busy person with little time to watch TV, but even I will admit to watching between 12 to 17 hours of TV a week," she said.

"I may not be just sitting on the couch watching 'Desperate Housewives,'" she said, "but the TV is on in the background whenever I am home."



### Army Wives

POSTPONED NEW SEASON: JUNE 2008

### Brothers & Sisters

COMING BACK 4 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 20

### Desperate Housewives

COMING BACK 6 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 13

### Friday Night Lights

POSTPONED

### Grey's Anatomy

COMING BACK 5 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 24

### Heroes

POSTPONED NEW SEASON: FALL 2008

### Lost

COMING BACK 1 PRE-STRIKE EPISODE LEFT  
5 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 24

### Nip/Tuck

POSTPONED  
NEW SEASON FILMING SUMMER 2008

### The Office

COMING BACK 6 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 10

### Prison Break

SEASON WRAPPED — NOT YET RENEWED

### Private Practice

POSTPONED NEW SEASON: FALL 2008

### Two and a Half Men

ALREADY BACK 9 NEW EPISODES: MARCH 17

### Ugly Betty

COMING BACK 5 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 24

### 24

POSTPONED NEW SEASON: JANUARY 2009  
TWO-HOUR TV MOVIE FALL 2008

### 30 Rock

COMING BACK 5 NEW EPISODES: APRIL 10

PROFILE

## Student journalist tries her hand at art photography

Melissa Frederick  
Reporter

For most of us spring break was spent partying, being with friends and family, or just relaxing. Senior Katie Libecco, on the other hand, was setting up her first art show in the Oakland Center for the Art's Star Gallery. The exhibit, "Their Song, Their Scene," features over 30 poster-sized and 8-by-10 photographs of local bands and the venues they play.

"I want people to understand how beautiful the local culture and music scene is here," said Libecco in a press release. "I'm trying to convey how vibrant our culture is with these photographs. Digital photography has given me the ability to capture these beautiful moments in time to share with others."

Libecco worked for The Jambar before she was a rock photographer. She works for Vindy.com and Valley24.com as a writer, photographer and videographer.

"I want to do everything

because I know exactly what my vision for each story is. I want to go out and document the world," said Libecco, describing herself as a one-man-band journalist.

The photographs in her exhibit are described as futurist color metallic prints and are of local bands such as The Zou and First in Space. The idea to do something different happened after taking pictures at a concert at Cedars one night. The lighting hadn't been great and Libecco described the photographs as boring.

"I just wanted pretty pictures to look at so I started experimenting," she said.

She found that she could capture movement with one to ten second exposures and also through camera movement. Libecco said that her method is all in the act of taking the picture, and she does not edit the photographs after the exposure is made.

Libecco said, "I come from the world of photojournalism where you don't edit photos. Why would you?"

She e-mails the photographs



LIBECCO

to a lab in New Jersey for development and is never sure exactly how they will turn out until she gets them back about a week later.

Libecco already has some offers from other galleries that would like to display her rock photos, one of which she sold on the spot at the Oakland. There are other buyers lined up for more of the photos in the exhibit.

For now, Libecco is keeping the topic of her next show a secret.



ALL A BLUR — One of Libecco's photos from Maystream's Hip-hop for Hip-hop Heads 3 at Barley's showcases her rock photography. She experimented with her camera setup until she found the right effect to capture the "vibrant" culture of the music scene in Youngstown. Photo by Katie Libecco.



THEATER

## 'Dog Sees God': the Peanuts parody Charles Schulz doesn't want you to see

Michael Bury  
Reporter

If you ever wondered what happened to Charlie Brown and the gang, director Robert Dennick Joki's production of "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead" at the Oakland Center for the Arts in Youngstown is the behind-the-music sob story of the beloved Peanuts crew.

The play is an unauthorized parody that takes the Peanuts characters from the Charles Schulz comic strip and places them 10 years into the future, smack dab in the middle of high school.

The dark comedy starts out with CB, based on Charlie Brown, writing to his never-heard-from pen pal about Snoopy being put to sleep, due to rabies. Contemplating what happens after we die, CB tries to go to his friends and family about his problems, but unfortunately everyone is too self-involved to really help him. Matt, adapted from Pigen, is a sex-addicted neat freak;

best friend Van, based on Linus, turned to pot after someone burned his security blanket; Tricia and Marci (Peppermint Patty and Marci) are alcoholic mean girls; and CB's sister is searching for her own identity. CB ends up re-establishing contact with his old friend Beethoven (Schroeder), who may or may not be a homosexual. Don't let the old Peanuts comics fool you. With such topics as drug use, suicide, eating disorders, teen violence, rebellion and sexual identity, this play is not for children.

Gary Shackleford is excellent as the loveable loser that Charles Schulz created and playwright Bert V. Royal adapted into CB. Shackleford's scenes with Greg Mocker, who plays Beethoven, are riveting. Their parodied portrayals leave audiences on the edge of their seats wondering what is going to happen as they explore their sexuality.

Another standout performance comes from Amato D'Apolito, who is hilarious as CB's best friend Van. D'Apolito captures the clueless,

**WHEN** 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday  
**WHERE** The Oakland  
**HOW MUCH** adults \$15, seniors \$12, students \$10

philosophical stoner we have all known from high school days.

The drawback of the show is its spurts of preachiness, condemning the audience for the problems teenagers face. At other times it feels like the playwright is trying to be a little too "in-your-face" with the characters.

For instance, Van's sister Lucy is a pyromaniac institutionalized for lighting the Little Red-Haired Girl's hair on fire because CB used to have a crush on her.

This is community theater at its best. The cast and crew do an excellent job of bastardizing Charles Schulz's saccharine creation. And with the power being harnessed from Schulz's spinning dead body, you'll be doing your part for the environment. Either way it's win-win.

## upcoming events

### Friday

Dance Lessons  
The Dusty Armadillo  
7 p.m.

Comedian Jeff Dunham  
Stambaugh Auditorium  
7:30 to 10 p.m.

### Saturday

Wine Tasting  
Winestyles of Howland  
2 to 5 p.m. (\$8 to \$12)

"Stomin' Norman"  
Timberlanes of Salem  
6 to 9 p.m.

Mahoning Valley Thunder  
Chevrolet Centre at 7:05 p.m.  
(\$12 to \$50)

Davis & McKay  
The Mocha House in Warren  
7:30 to 10:30 p.m.





**FOOTBALL**

# Back to the gridiron

## Spring practice begins for the Penguins as the team looks to fill major holes at the quarterback, linebacker and safety positions.

**Andrew Berry**  
Sports Editor

The Youngstown State University football team returned to the gridiron this week as the squad held its first spring practice Wednesday.

As the team moves through the spring schedule culminating with the annual Red-White spring game on April 18, head coach John Heacock and the Penguins will have to decipher where some of the puzzle pieces are going to fit in 2008.

Following the team's slightly disappointing 8-4 campaign from a year ago, the goal for the Penguins

will be to not miss out on the play-offs in 2008. But first, the squad has to address the needs at some of the more important positions on the field.

No longer will quarterback Tom Zetts line up under center on Saturday for the Penguins. After never missing a start since taking over the job in 2004, Zetts leaves the team with very little experience at the quarterback position.

Of the options available for Heacock and his staff, Junior Todd Rowan is the most likely candidate to take over for the departed Zetts next season. Rowan has been with the YSU program for three years but has just completed one career

pass.

Despite Rowan's limited time on the field during his tenure in a Penguin uniform, Heacock may feel most comfortable plugging Rowan into the system. Junior transfer Brandon Summers of Toledo has not seen action since 2006, freshman Paul Corsaro red-shirted last year, and junior Ferlando Williams has shown more productivity from the wide receiver position.

"Todd's a guy that's been around and had some great spring games and we just need to keep him healthy and let him compete," Heacock said. "He's the guy with the most reps."

What will make breaking in a new quarterback easier for Heacock will be the loaded backfield the Penguins will feature in 2008. Returning to carry the rock will be junior Kevin Smith, junior Jabari Scott and Brandon Nicholson. The three-headed monster from the trenches combined for 1,302 yards and 18 touchdowns in 2007.

With the rest of the offense intact, the other glaring holes for the Penguins are on defense.

What was once a strength for the Penguins is now a weakness as the departure of James Terry and Jeremiah Wright has left the linebacking core depleted. Junior Rashon Simons takes over as the most experienced player and will have a to lead a unit that hasn't had much playing time.

Also damaging to the Penguin defense is the loss of veterans Dorian Chenault, Vince Gliatta and Bob Perez in the secondary. While the squad returns three main players at cornerback, defensive coordinator Jeff Mills will have to look to a

younger group to find a successful tandem at the safety position.

Mills is looking to his veterans at cornerback — junior DeAngelo Wilson, sophomore Lenny Wicks and junior Jarvis Richards — to anchor the secondary as the younger talent of the Penguin depth chart merges into starting roles. Mills is excited to see what the young group has to offer.

"The focus a year ago was the concern at corner, but going into the spring now the corners are the experienced part of the secondary and we're putting it on them to take leadership positions and push the rest of the group," Mills said.

"The starting point is the older guys showing the younger guys how to practice and how to play and after that it's repetition," Mills said. "It's just old fashioned going to work, that's the bottom line."

On special teams, Heacock believes that with the group of players available to trot out on the field, the Penguins have a chance to be very solid in the kicking, punting and return games.

While the Penguins muscle through the spring practice schedule, Heacock is confident that the new faces will step up and make an impact. Every spring Heacock goes through the motions of replacing graduated talent, making this spring no different. Heacock feels the staff is looking forward to seeing the players compete for jobs on the field and evaluating the spring performances as the team works toward finding its identity in 2008.

"It's exciting," Heacock said. "I think all the coaches will tell you that spring ball and summer camp and the season are the best part of what we do."



**PITCHER OF THE WEEK - AARON SWENSON**

Youngstown State University sophomore Aaron Swenson has been named the Horizon League Pitcher of the Week for his complete game victory against Butler on Saturday. Swenson, a right-hander from Twinsburg, Ohio, held the Bulldogs to one run on eight hits to earn his first victory of the season in the series finale. He also struck out four and did not issue a walk in what was his first career complete game.



FERLANDO WILLIAMS. PHOTO BY ANDREW BERRY

**KEY RETURNING PLAYERS**

- WR Ferlando Williams
- HB Kevin Smith
- HB Jabari Scott
- FB Ben Lane
- TE Derrick Bursh
- OT Tyler Booth
- OG Brad Samsa
- DE Mychal Savage
- DE Torrance Nicholson
- LB Rashon Simons
- CB DeAngelo Williams
- CB Jarvis Richards
- K Brian Palmer
- P Ben Nowicki

**BIGGEST LOSSES**

- QB Tom Zetts
- TE Louis Irizarry
- LB James Terry
- LB Jeremiah Wright
- SS Vince Gliatta
- FS Dorian Chenault
- SS Bob Perez

**FILLING THEIR SHOES**

- QB Todd Rowan
- TE Bruce Palmer
- LB Adam House
- LB Mike Barlak
- SS Brandian Ross
- FS Nick Gooden

**NEW FACES**

- QB Brandon Summers (Toledo)
- HB Dana Brown (Iowa)
- LB Draye Ersery (Junior College)
- SS Andrew Elliot (Garden-Webb)

**SPRING GAME**

April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
Stambaugh Stadium



**CLEAN PLAY** — Sophomore infielder Autumn Grove fields the hit and steps into her motion to throw the runner out at first. The Penguins will look to turn their early season woes around as they open the Horizon League portion of the schedule with Loyola. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

**SOFTBALL**

# Softball squad prepares for league series with talented Loyola Ramblers

**Aaron Blatch**  
Sports Reporter

With some improved pitching and defense and star third baseman McKenzie Bedra breaking out of her slump in a big way, the Youngstown State softball team finally got into the win column and gave the team something to build from heading into the Horizon League schedule.

The Penguins (1-10) went just 1-3 at the Miami Invitational last weekend, but head coach Christy Cameron was happy with her team's progress.

"We took steps in the right direction, but we aren't satisfied," Cameron said. "We improved our defense and pitching — areas that we needed to improve in. We've started working ahead in counts and minimizing walks, and the bats started to come around, too."

The improvements were showcased in a 6-2 victory over Michigan State, the highlight of the weekend. Danielle Chase picked up a complete game win, the Penguins made no fielding errors, and Bedra stole the show offensively. The senior, who had struggled offensively before the tournament, hit her second homerun of the weekend and drove in four runs in the game against the Spartans.

Next, the Penguins will turn their attention to the Horizon League schedule, which Cameron expects to be extremely competitive. They will play a three-game series with defending regular-season champion Loyola on Saturday and Sunday. Loyola has not had the

**SERIES SCHEDULE**

- Game 1 — Saturday, 2 p.m.
- Game 2 — Saturday, 5 p.m.
- Game 3 — Sunday, noon

**VERSUS LOYOLA IN 2007**

- Won season series 2-1
- Outscored Loyola 6-5 in three games

**LAST TIME OUT**

The Penguins ended the 2007 regular season on a two game winning streak after losing game one of the Loyola series at McCune Park.

same success as last season, entering with a 6-11 record, but Cameron still lists them among the league's elite.

Last season the Penguins accounted for two of the Ramblers' five league losses, winning the season series 2-1. However, Cameron said the team is not drawing from last season's success against Loyola for confidence.

aggressive style of play. They have stolen 36 bases already this season, led by left fielder Ellen Kresl. The sophomore has stolen eight bags and leads the team with a .386 batting average, hitting near the top of the order.

Offensively, Cameron said situational hitting will be the biggest key to winning the series. The team is hitting just .253, so the coach said that those hits must come in big moments and the team's outs must be productive, moving runners into scoring position.

The Penguins will likely have to do this when up against reigning Horizon League Pitcher of the Year Amy Solava, who took those honors after a freshman season in which she posted a 1.83 earned run average in league play.

Statistically, the two teams have had similar offense production so far, with each averaging around three runs per game. The Ramblers have allowed one run less per game than the Penguins, but their pitchers have often had trouble finding the strike zone, with 66 walks so far. The difference in the series will likely be which team does the little things to turn around its slow start at the beginning of the league season.

**"We can't look at last year for confidence. Our confidence comes from preparation and from the way we put some things together Sunday at Miami."**

Christy Cameron, head softball coach

"We can't look at last year for confidence," she said. "Our confidence comes from preparation and from the way we put some things together Sunday at Miami."

For a repeat of past success against the Ramblers, the Penguins' pitching and defense must continue to improve. Cameron said her team must keep the opposition off the bases, because of Loyola's quick,

**PENGUIN SPORTS TO THE POINT**

*Baseball team picks up huge win over IUP in home opener*

Battling cold weather and high winds, Youngstown State's baseball team took the field at Cene Park and took home a 12-4 win against Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Tuesday's contest was the first home game for the Penguins (5-11) who have been on the road for the past 15 games.

In the first inning, seniors Sean Lucas and Josh Page led the game off with hits. Redshirt freshman Joe Iacobucci singled, clearing the bases and jumpstarting the bats for the Penguins. YSU added another run in the third when Page drove in sophomore Anthony Munoz to take the lead 3-0.

The Crimson Hawks rallied in the top half of the fourth to tie the game at three runs a piece. But senior starting pitcher Adam Kalafos settled in going eight innings and allowing four earned runs on nine hits and striking out 11 to earn his first win of the season.

The Penguins took the lead in the fifth on a small two out rally. Anthony Porter and Iacobucci added RBI hits to keep the Penguin offense breathing. Munoz added a two-run home run in the sixth, and the Penguins never looked back. Senior Ryan Sellman pitched a scoreless ninth to hold onto a 12-4 victory for the Penguins. Youngstown State had a season high 19 hits and 12 runs.

Youngstown State will travel to Bowling Green over the weekend for a three-game series against Western Kentucky (11-9). It will be the team's final road series before coming home for five straight home games at Eastwood Field.

*Softball Horizon League Standings*

TEAM	LEAGUE	OVERALL
Wright State	1-0	10-12
Butler	1-1	9-8
Loyola	1-1	6-11
Valparaiso	0-0	14-7
Cleveland State	0-0	10-5
Green Bay	0-0	6-10
Illinois Chicago	0-0	9-20
<b>Youngstown State</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>1-10</b>
Detroit	0-1	5-11

**LEAGUE UPDATE**

Valparaiso and Wright State won both games of its respective doubleheaders on Tuesday. The Crusaders defeated Northern Illinois 5-2 (game one) and 5-1 (game two), while the Raiders got past Rio Grande 15-4 in the opener and 12-0 in the night cap.