

IT'S UNANIMOUS!

Mid-Continent Conference welcomes Penguins as newest member to their now 10-team league



RICK GEORGE/THE JAMBAR

This is the beginning a wonderful friendship: YSU Athletic Director Joe Malmisur (left) and Mid-Continent Conference Commissioner Jerry Ippoliti announce on Saturday, YSU's admittance into the league. YSU was voted in unanimously by the league officials.

By RICK GEORGE
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Good things come to those who wait.

After a three-year wait, YSU will once again be affiliated with a conference. On Friday, the Mid-Continent Conference's League of Delegates voted unanimously 8-0 to allow YSU into their conference.

"I'm delighted to be a member of their (Mid-Continent Conference) conference," said YSU athletic director Joe Malmisur. "It gives us a chance to become champions. It's a milestone, but hopefully it's not the pinnacle. We want to win championships."

Conference commissioner Jerry Ippoliti said at a press conference Saturday in Beeghly that YSU will become an official member beginning July 1 and will be eligible for all men's conference championships with the

exception of basketball this season.

Men's basketball and all womens' sports will be eligible in the 1992-93 academic year. The conference does not compete in football.

"We felt extra strong about YSU's integrity," said Ippoliti about why YSU was voted in unanimously. "They never had any violations or were ever on probation."

He said the league officials were impressed with the University's leaders such as Dr. Neil Humphrey and Malmisur.

Ippoliti also said the University's academics and commitment to the students were other positive factors.

YSU will have to pay a membership fee of \$100,000 to the Mid-Continent Conference.

The University has been an independent in all sports since leaving the Ohio Valley Conference in 1988-89.

Mid-Continent keeps growing every year since its inception

The Mid-Continent Conference (formerly the Association of Mid-Continent Universities) was formed in 1982 as eight midwestern universities joined to form a NCAA Division I conference for men's athletics.

Through the years, the conference has made some changes.

One of the changes will take place in the 1992-93 academic year when women's athletics will become part of the conference.

In 1989-90, the league officials signed a contract with Sports Channel to televise a weekly conference basketball game. This in turn led to the conference's weekly television show, SportsCheck, also seen on the Sports Channel.

The conference sent two teams into the NCAA 64-team basketball tournament this past season. It also has one of the



final 17 players vying for a spot on the Pan-American basketball team.

The Mid-Continent Conference headquarters is located in Chicago.

The commissioner is Jerry Ippoliti. He earned his bachelor's degree at Miami (Ohio) and his master's at West Virginia University.

Ippoliti is a former assistant football coach under Ara Parseghian at Miami (Ohio).

The conference is governed by the Council of Delegates, which is made up by the presidents and athletic directors of the member institutions.