

# Tressel tackles OSU

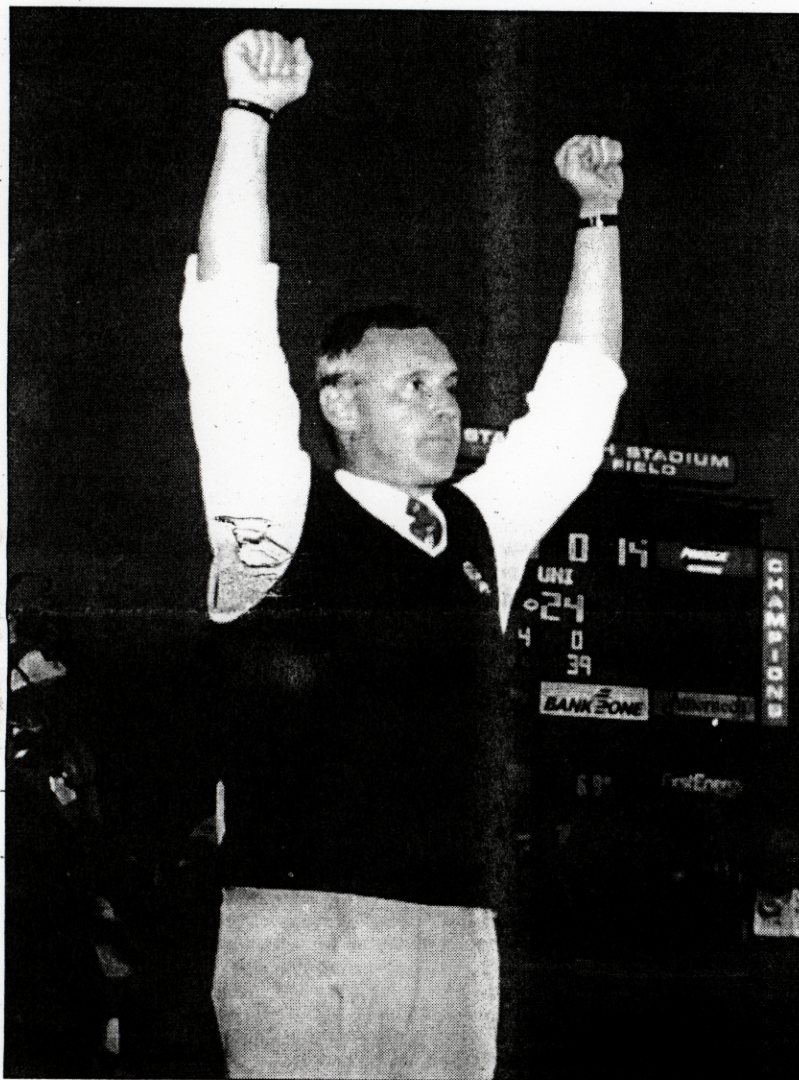


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By BREANNA DEMARCO  
*Jambar Editor*

Today in a press conference, football Head Coach Jim Tressel is expected to leave his posts at YSU and accept the head coach position at The Ohio State University.

According to Dr. David Sweet, president, Tressel received a call from OSU at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday offering him the position.

Sweet said, "It is with somewhat of a heavy heart we say goodbye, but we can't help but feel a great pleasure to have Coach Tressel tapped for the honor of coaching in one of the best programs in the country."

In a press release from Sweet, he said he will brief the YSU Board of Trustees on plans to replace Tressel and continue the "excellent coaching staff and athletic administration he has assembled."

Coach Tressel is making a big jump from a Division I-AA school with a student population of roughly 12,000 students into a Big Ten university with a student body of 55,000 and a stadium that seats more than 103,000.

Phil Larmon, freshman, wide receiver, pre-business, said, "I'm excited for Coach Tressel because I know that's probably the only place he'd leave Youngstown for."

"We can't harp on that though, because we've got to concentrate on our own season that's coming up. I knew he had a good shot — a fair shot."

J.T. Watson, freshman, offensive lineman, criminal justice, said, "I'm excited that he's getting a better chance but I'm disappointed that he's leaving."

"We knew if [OSU] offered it he

was gonna go."

The local radio stations have been abuzz with news of Tressel's hiring since late Wednesday afternoon.

WKBN 540 AM radio had numerous callers talking about the future of Penguin football. Some of the comments dealt with the possible hiring of YSU defensive coordinator John Heacock to replace Tressel, as it would be a natural progression within the existing program.

While the reactions in Youngstown are bittersweet, the responses from students at OSU are positive.

Greg Morocco, OSU freshman, pharmacy, said, "I love the fact he is coming to OSU. What he has done at YSU I hope he can bring down here. Right now, many students don't know who he is, but that is going to change."

Dennis DiTullio, OSU freshman, finance, said, "Tressel ran a class program at YSU. It's obvious that OSU's program is going down the wrong path right now. You have players suing each other, and it's just very shaky."

"When [Tressel] comes here maybe he can add the stability that this program needs. I mean, Cooper just let the program get away from him. It wasn't good for the school; when the football program does bad, it reflects badly on the entire school."

Tressel's leaving may be a blow to the YSU athletic program, but in the words of wide receiver Denver Williams, senior, physical education, "But maybe change is good, who knows?"

Tressel could not be reached for comment.