

Jon Heacock



named new head coach

BY BREANNA DEMARCO
Jambar Editor

YSU administration needed to look no further than their own defensive coordinator Jon Heacock to replace Jim Tressel as the fifth football coach in YSU history.

Dr. David Sweet, university president, said, "Coach Heacock is a proven leader and is well respected throughout the college football coaching ranks. I am confident in his abilities and his vision, and we know he is the person to ensure the continuation of our outstanding football tradition."

Sweet, the Athletic Department, the YSU Board of Trustees and members of the Youngstown community met and decided on who would step up now that former head coach Tressel has left.

"Whether it was in my conversations with the Penguin Club, YSU's football student-athletes or Penguin fans, one name was constant ... and that name was Jon Heacock," said Sweet.

In a letter left to YSU by former coach Jim Tressel, he said, "Please understand as I make this suggestion, it is only due to my great love and concern for my YSU football family. I suggest Jon Heacock ... he has all of the qualities necessary to do the job."

Heacock began coaching in 1983, when he was hired to be the defensive line coach at the University of Toledo.

After one season in Toledo, Heacock coached at Steubenville High School and guided the team to the 1984 Ohio Division II State Championship.

He then moved to West Liberty College as a defensive coordinator, secondary coach and a defensive-line coach for three seasons and moved to the University of Michigan.

While with the Wolverines, Heacock worked with the special teams and defensive backs and watched as his team won two Big Ten titles and won the Rose Bowl.

In 1990, he became an assistant coach at the United States Military Academy, and one season afterward, he came to YSU.

Within his first four years, he saw the Penguins win three national championships.

Then, in 1997, he moved to Indiana University to become the defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach for the Hoosiers. In 1998, IU football finished third in the nation.

In 2000, he came back to his hometown to once again become the defensive coordinator for the Penguins.

In 2001, defensive coordinator Jon Heacock became the new YSU head coach.