

Narduzzi named head coach in football press conference

William Narduzzi, defensive coordinator at the University of Kentucky for the past two seasons, has been appointed head football coach at YSU. The announcement was made Friday by athletic director Paul Amodio in a noon press conference held in Room 216 of Kilcawley Center.

Narduzzi becomes the third head coach at YSU since the program was launched in 1938 by the late "Dike" Beede. Rey Dempsey succeeded Beede two years ago and guided the Penguins to an overall 12-8 record, excluding a play-off berth in the NCAA II small college section. Dempsey resigned on March 11 to become an assistant coach with the Detroit Lions.

Amodio headed the selection committee that picked Narduzzi over 50 other applicants. "We chose Narduzzi because of his vast experience, 13 years as a coach at five different colleges. He played under such great mentors as Ara Parseghian (formerly of Notre Dame), John Pont (Northwestern), Carmen Cuzza (Yale) and Fran Curci

(Kentucky). He's a product of Miami (Ohio) University's cradle of coaches," noted Amodio.

At Kentucky he was part of a coaching staff that produced the best Wildcat football record since 1965. Two of his defensive players earned all-southeastern conference honors and three members of his defensive unit participated in a total of five post-season all-star games.

When accepting the head coach position Narduzzi exclaimed "This is an opportunity for me to return to an area that is rich in football talent and a University which has enough ambition, potential and possibilities to make my job exciting."

Narduzzi's immediate plans are to interview and retain the entire coaching staff. Spring practice has been set to begin on April 28 and conclude on May 24 with the annual Red-White football game.

In regard to YSU's style of play, Narduzzi doesn't foresee any wholesale changes. This is due in part to the fact that YSU and Kentucky

employ similar defensive alignments. Narduzzi plans to have a balance attack between passing and running.

The selection committee

was composed of Amodio, Dr. Peter Baldino, Dr. Michael Vuksta, Jack Cramb, Tom Franklin, Steve Grecvich and Joe Simko, who acted as a student representative.