

Construction begins

# Stadium to go up in spring

by Sandy Kachurek

The three-phased program to procure nearly \$13 million for the sports complex is almost complete with construction to begin this spring.

Edmund Salata, dean of administrative affairs, gave the *Jambar* a report on the complex, which was first suggested in the spring of 1976.

Phase three is the only phase still in the process of completion. Phase three entails state funding for educational and administrative staff facilities within the stadium. The state is considering a bill requesting \$7 million for initial development and expansion of health and physical education facilities. The bill has passed in the House and is awaiting approval by the Senate. Salata says that the budget should be approved by the legislature and finalized by Governor James Rhodes at the later part of this month.

While waiting for state's approval, YSU has been conducting meetings composed of the Health and Physical Education Committee to formulate and develop the various areas of concern in this project. "A whole spectrum of needs are being considered here," stated Salata. Representatives speaking on their department or group's behalf comprise the committee. In addition to health and physical education, the interests of other departments include intra-

murals, inter-collegiate sports and various athletic programs.

Phases one and two of the program are complete. The second phase, involving community fund raising, met its goal this past summer. Salata stated that the community went over its goal with the present figure being \$3,138,588. Of that total, YSU faculty raised \$118,826, alumni \$118,367, corporations \$1,216,550 and the community, the remainder. Over 1,800 pledges were received, the amounts ranging from \$1 to \$50,000. Salata, assistant director of the campaign, said of the fund raising endeavors that everyone "did an outstanding job and it was a pleasure working with them."

The first phase, for \$3 million toward the purchase of 17.8 acres of land north of Beeghly Center, is also complete. Allocated by the YSU Board of Trustees, the money goes toward the development of a multi-purpose sports field, including baseball and softball diamonds, tennis courts, an eight lane all-weather track, and an all-weather playing field.

"The architectural portion of the complex is presently being considered and drawn up," said Salata. It, too, requires state level concurrence. Plans are set for construction of the spectator portion of the stadium this spring with completion in the fall of 1979. Salata expected to

see the indoor facilities comprising classrooms and offices to be finished by fall of 1980.

When asked what would happen if the price rose from now until the complex's completion and exceeded present funds, Salata answered that, "you do the best you can." Some suggested alternatives were to cut down on amounts spent on construction, finish various phases of the complex or wait until funds are available for remaining sections. Salata views the possibility of this occurring as slight. When drawing up the figures needed to construct the sports complex, "anticipation as to the level of the economy three years from now was taken into account," said Salata.

Salata's feeling about the project is one of gratitude, "this has been the finest University project. It has added strength to  
(Cont. on page 2)

## Stadium

(Cont. from page 1)

the University and community." Salata added that the sports complex is "in the highest and best interest of the public. It will strengthen and broaden the curriculum, making a degree from YSU more important. It improves the total image of YSU."