

# Plans for fund raising unveiled for stadium

by Greg Gulas

Plans were unveiled for the raising of \$3 million to make possible the construction of a sports complex on the YSU campus at a press conference held last Friday in Kilcawley. Serving as chairman of the campaign will be Frank C. Watson, president and secretary of the Youngstown Welding and Engineering Company.

Outlining the plans for the fundraising campaign, Watson noted that, "The Mahoning/Shenango Valley community has the unique opportunity to join with YSU in building a comprehensive sports complex of which the entire area can be proud." Since it will be a community effort and project, it will be open to the community for various community functions.

Noting that the Trustees of the University have provided \$3 million, of which includes the purchase of the land as well as money for the site development, Watson added, "We now have the challenge to match university funds for a 13,000 to 16,000 spectator stadium. State funds are not available for spectator facilities."

The total project is divided into three phases, the first two of which (site development and a successful fund campaign) will complete the major external components of the total sports complex.

Planned for the stadium will be readily available press and broadcasting areas, public facilities to include elevator, concession areas and restrooms. Also planned are an electric scoreboard, stadium lighting, players and officials' dressing rooms, coaching offices and equipment storage.

The third phase will be the development of educational and administrative staff facilities within the stadium shell and the development of additional recreational areas for basketball backstops, outdoor handball, volleyball and badminton courts.

Assisting Watson in the fundraising campaign will be six area interest groups. They are William G. Lyden Jr., president of Lyden Oil Co., who will head the initial gifts division; Thomas J. Travers, board chairman, Commercial Shearing Inc., advance corporations; R. Thornton Beeghly, president, Standard Slag Co. and Metal Carbides Corp., advance

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individuals division; Frank Leseganich, director, District 26, United Steelworkers of America, organized labor division; Allen Foxman of the Great Western Steel Co., community phase of the campaign; and Paul N. Wigton, district manager, Republic Steel Corp., YSU alumni and friends division.

Treasurer of the committee will be Earl E. Brauning, president, Union National Bank.

Also attending the conference was State Sen. Harry Meshel of Youngstown who commended the committee for their efforts and pledged support for the project.

John J. Coffelt, president of

YSU said, "The time is appropriate for YSU to provide its men and women students with a facility to accommodate the outdoor instructional, recreational, intramural and intercollegiate athletic programs at the University." He also

stressed that provisions will be made for scheduling both public and parochial high school events as well as appropriate community events.

Should all proceed as expected, tentative groundbreaking could begin around late September, or early October, 1977.