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PENGUINS WADDLE TOWARD GRADUATION



2022 spring commencement.

Photo courtesy of Youngstown State University

A walk down memory lane

By Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

Soon-to-be graduates of Youngstown State University will walk across the court of Beeghly Center on Dec. 18 to receive their diplomas.

Graduation rates and retention rates at the university have increased over the past seven years and this year will see over 700 students moving onto a new stage of life.

This will act not only as a final ceremony for those graduating, but also for President Jim Tressel.

Tressel reflected back on his presidency and said he has experienced great pride seeing some of the largest graduating classes under his belt.

“For a long time I was a coach, and a scoreboard was important. But what’s been neat about this scoreboard is that we’ve had our largest graduating classes in the history of the university and we’re not at the largest enrollment we’ve ever been,” Tressel said.

Graduation, Page 2

YSU earns nearly \$16 million in grants

By Shianna Gibbons
The Jambar

Youngstown State University was awarded \$15.8 million in grants for the fiscal year of 2022, surpassing the \$14.4 million earned last year and setting a new record.

The grants are a combination of agreements between YSU and governmental bodies or businesses for research purposes, to fund equipment or previous agreements.

Sev Slambrouck, director of Research Services, said the recent increase can be attributed to the faculty and staff submitting more proposals.

“The great faculty and staff that we have [at YSU] are submitting proposals or engaging with a local government [or] smaller companies into agreements. It’s our amount of submissions. We have also seen an increase in awards and award amounts over the past two years,” Slambrouck said.

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Graduation

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Tressel also said the university will be returning to some normalcy, and will still offer the same energy as commencement has in the past.

This ceremony will be the first held inside since the beginning of the pandemic.

“To see that full Beeghly Center ... I think you’ll feel that electricity, I think you’ll feel that excitement and I’m looking forward to it,” Tressel said.

Four main moments have always stuck out for Tressel during commencement including the turning of the tassels, shaking graduates hands as they receive their diplomas and his final words of, “By the authority vested in me by the State of Ohio.” He also stated that when the commencement speakers address those graduating, a rush fills the room.

Kendall Bartels, a forensic science major, will be the student speaker and YSU alumnus, David Lee Morgan Jr., is this semester’s keynote speaker.

Morgan is an award-winning author, journalist, sports writer and public speaker. He currently works as an English and video journalism teacher at Stow-Munroe Falls High School.

He began college in 1985 and originally studied criminal justice, but changed his degree path to professional writing

“To see that full Beeghly Center ... I think you’ll feel that electricity, I think you’ll feel that excitement and I’m looking forward to it.”

— **Jim Tressel**,
President of Youngstown State University

and editing with a minor in journalism. He said despite his struggles and having taken quarters off while in college, he’s proud of his journey.

“There were so many pitfalls that I went through,” Morgan said. “I struggled, you know. I left school and had to come back, but when I came back, I had a different focus ... I had a focus that nobody was ever going to take away from me. That’s when I excelled and I knew what I wanted to do.”

He worked as a sports writer for The Jambar in the late 80s and early 90s. He went on to write books on basketball player LeBron James, professional boxer Kelly Pavlik and Tressel. Morgan has covered a wide variety of sports including collegiate sports, NBA games and the World Series in his almost 30 years of journalism.

Morgan said returning to the university was surreal and owes his successful career to his time spent at YSU.

“I’m so proud to come back, I’m humbled. It’s just an amazing kind of — surreal kind of scenario and experience. I’m just proud as can be that I’ve got the opportunity,” Morgan said.

Fall commencement starts at 2 p.m. in the Beeghly Center. For those graduating and seeking more information on deadlines and assigned room locations per college, visit YSU’s website.

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu. Fri. Sat. Sun. Mon. Tue. Wed.

High: 42°F	High: 42°F	High: 41°F	High: 42°F	High: 38°F	High: 41°F	High: 47°F
Low: 32°F	Low: 33°F	Low: 37°F	Low: 34°F	Low: 32°F	Low: 35°F	Low: 28°F
Chance of precip: 3%	Chance of precip: 84%	Chance of precip: 9%	Chance of precip: 91%	Chance of precip: 12%	Chance of precip: 16%	Chance of precip: 67%



Mostly Cloudy



Rain



Overcast



Rain



Partly Cloudy



Mostly Cloudy



Scattered Showers

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Athletics attracts as enrollment drops

By Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

Athletics have a large part to play in the operation of any public university and Youngstown State University is no different.

According to preliminary enrollment numbers, YSU's enrollment has declined since 2018, and various re-adjustments to courses, majors and programs have followed. YSU's Athletic Department has also felt the pressure of an adjusting climate.

Ron Strollo, the executive director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said the enrollment decline came as no surprise, but that the department has been helping fight a declining enrollment slope by adding new sports to attract students.

"We've brought on women's lacrosse, before that we brought on women's bowling, we've added men's swimming, we've doubled the rosters in both our cross country programs. That was to get more students," Strollo said. "We probably added 100 to 150 student-athletes to campus and those students have done very well academically."

According to Strollo, a lower enrollment for any university means less revenue, and the same applies to an athletic budget.

"The challenges financially have affected our budget in the sense of — we're probably trying to work through close to about a half a million dollar budget challenge that the university wasn't able to support us on," Strollo said. "There's a lot of administrative expenses, from my salary or athletic trainers. All of the support, academic advisors and the support that goes behind our almost 550 student-athletes."

To combat higher expenses, Strollo said athletics considers a variety of cutbacks including providing less scholarships, pulling back on certain expenses and raising external monies through fundraising opportunities.

Not all costs and expenses athletics deals with are handled through its budget, as it also receives financial aid from the YSU Foundation and the Penguin Club to cover scholarships and unexpected expenses.

"The resources that we're able to provide [student-athletes] don't provide enough resources for them to do what they want to do, and that's why you'll see them do several fundraisers, and that's why the Penguin Club exists," Strollo said.

Strollo also said there are a lot of moving pieces that need to be covered by a budget. Athletics strives to generate revenue through game-day ticket sales and advertisements to help make up that difference.

Vice President of Finance Business Operations at

YSU, Neal McNally said being a Division I college has perks such as campus life and student experience, but also holds many costs for a university.

"To be a Division I athletic program is not a trivial matter ... it brings a lot of compliance requirements, which do bring costs," McNally said. "If you break it down, the net cost of YSU's athletic program is about \$3.7 million this year. So, that represents about, I think 1.8% of total university revenue in a given fiscal year."

With academic programs being re-evaluated, McNally said that the university is not looking at sunseting athletic programs, as there are no enrollment issues related to filling athletic teams.

"If we could no longer find enough students to fill a team, whether that's football or women's bowling, if we don't have enough students to compete on a team we would definitely look to sunset and close those athletic programs," McNally said. "Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for some of our academic programs. That's not because we don't offer high quality academic programming — it's because I think, maybe simply, we have in some cases, more academic programs than we need for a university our size, given the larger negative trend in enrollment."



Stambaugh Stadium is one of the main athletic buildings on campus, housing the Athletic Department.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

FEELING THE EFFECTS



Some art students are having trouble finishing their degrees because of cuts to the program.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar

Concern over YSU's Department of Art

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Back in the fall of 2021, Youngstown State University sunset multiple courses and programs. In September, the university announced 11 departments to be considered for readjustments, including the Department of Art.

Students and professors within the department have expressed concern for their majors, courses and programs offered at the university.

Dana Sperry, professor of digital media and photography at YSU, said the issue with fewer courses in the Art Department lies with the number of faculty it has.

"One of the problems is that we've lost a lot of [faculty] because they just left. Some people retired, but by large, people went elsewhere," Sperry said. "It feels, at least from my vantage point, from a faculty standpoint ... like more people left than we needed to cut down to. Now we're short-staffed, we feel that way at least, and that is reflected somewhat in our course offerings."

Sperry said he has seen YSU invest in multiple different objectives to help the university — except for teaching.

"I see investments in administration, investments in other areas that are tangential to the learning experience, and some are very important to the learning experience. What I don't see is an investment in teaching, and what I see is quite the opposite," Sperry said. "We keep getting smaller, and that feels like a series of deferred maintenance on the thing that we produce, like we actually create the experience that every student has."

Students have expressed concern about the lack of art classes needed to fulfill certain art majors' requirements. Courtney Blair, a senior photography major, said past course cuts have resulted in her substituting classes for her major.

"This has made me have to take classes that aren't even necessary for me to graduate," Blair said.

Kaileigh McBride, a sophomore interdisciplinary studio art major, said the changes made have affected her graduation timeline.

"It affects the entirety of my major. Not only from being an art major, but having to fight with other people to get into classes that I need to graduate," McBride said. "The reality that my graduation date might be pushed back because I can't get into the classes I need to get

into, it's very stressful. Not knowing if this specific class will be available, it makes it 10 times worse."

Blair also said she hopes YSU reconsiders past cuts and what it has caused for other students.

"[YSU] needs to rethink some things. Just because there isn't a lot of people doing that specific major, doesn't mean they need to cut back on [it]. Especially for people that are currently in it because it's making it really difficult for those people to graduate."

Students, who have issues with courses, often go to professors for help. Sperry said the professors only know so much to tell the students.

"I don't completely understand [YSU's] game strategy and I think that creates unease everywhere. That's the problem," Sperry said. "Students are coming and talking to [professors] about what's going on, but we only kind of half know what's going on. Then, it becomes really hard because we are the mouthpiece to the students, way more than anyone else is."

The Jambar reached out on multiple occasions to Phyllis Paul, dean of the Cliffe College of Creative Arts. She was unavailable for comment.

For more information about YSU's Department of Art, visit its webpage.

Grants

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Slambrouck said the largest grant proposals awarded on campus were the STEM focuses and the workforce development programs. These grants have also benefited YSU students.

“We have a lot of our faculty and staff that specifically submit proposal applications or engage in grant agreements to support their students by paying their students to be part of the project,” Slambrouck said.

Project Pass is one grant agreement that involves YSU students from the Beeghly College of Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and Education, with Youngstown City Schools. This allows education majors to earn teaching experience and tutor younger children attending Youngstown City Schools.

Charles Howell, dean of BCLASSE, said this project began in 2015, and stu-

dents have enjoyed their time and gained valuable experience.

“The kids [at] Youngstown City Schools look forward to [YSU students’] visits and enjoy their company,” Howell said. “Our students learn a lot about how to teach reading, especially in a community like Youngstown, where there are a lot of very impoverished families.”

Howell said this has also provided job opportunities for YSU Students.

“Some of our teacher candidates enjoy their experience so much that they go back and they’re hired to work at the schools,” Howell said.

Other grants awarded provide assistantships to graduate students, involve students in research or provide paid positions to students. Jackie Ruller, director of the Excellence Training Center, has received multiple grants that provide opportunities to YSU and high school students.

“One [awarded] is \$100,000 that we

got [from the Ohio Department of Education] to help high school students earn points towards graduation. The state of Ohio created this 12-point program for students at risk of not graduating from high school where they can come and take classes in person here at the ETC,” Ruller said.

Another grant Ruller received is sponsored by the Defense Logistics Agency — worth \$3.3 million — the largest awarded for this fiscal year. This grant is meant to provide advanced technology to growing businesses in the area.

The DLA grant has also provided assistantships to YSU students. Allison Rae, a graduate mechanical engineering student, said this has helped her gain industry experience.

“I went from doing my undergrad [at YSU] straight into my master’s, so I don’t have any industry experience. The experience here will definitely help me get jobs in the future. Generally, employers

are always asking, ‘Do you have a year or two of experience?’ Well, when you’re straight out of college, a lot of the time, you don’t have that,” Rae said

For information on how to get involved with research-based grants, go to YSU’s Research Service website.

“We have a lot of our faculty and staff that specifically submit proposal applications or engage in grant agreements to support their students by paying their students to be part of the project.”

— **Sev Slambrouck**, Director of Research Services

YSU student-athletes earn income through NIL partnerships

By Henry Shorr
Jambar Contributor

Ohio’s name, image and likeness law has been in place for over a year and Youngstown State University is creating spaces for student-athletes to find endorsement opportunities.

In the year since Ohio’s NIL law has been in effect, many YSU student-athletes have obtained sponsorship deals. The restaurant Sam’s Wedge Inn in Austintown partnered with Youngstown State women’s basketball players seniors Paige Shy and Mady Aulbach, and J. Arnold Smith Wealth and Management has partnered with Youngstown State football’s senior Jaleel McLaughlin.

Tyler Burke, assistant director of Compliance for YSU athletics, said his department helps student-athletes navigate this new side of college sports. The department provides resources like Opendorse, an online portal the university has partnered with, where athletes can find potential partnerships and sponsorships.

“Opendorse is the leader when it comes to the NIL. They’re partnering with... major, major schools,” Burke said. “There’s not going to be a \$50,000 deal on there. When you’re a college student, \$500 to make a cou-

ple social media posts. That’s a pretty good deal in my book.”

Opendorse also has educational modules for student-athletes where they can learn different aspects of the business side of sports — like how to build their brand and the tax implications of taking NIL deals.

Julia Csernyik, a junior on the Youngstown State women’s soccer team, said Opendorse has opened doors for her in the realm of athletic endorsement. Because of it, Csernyik has found success in social media partnerships. She said she’s especially proud of the work she’s been able to do for causes she supports, such as Player’s Health.

“I did an Instagram reel for [Player’s Health] for Title IX and the 50th anniversary in women’s sports,” Csernyik said. “I never thought that I would get an opportunity like that to work with groups that are working with much more popular athletes.”

Csernyik said she was excited to see her video posted next to professional soccer player Sarah Fuller’s video on the Player’s Health Instagram page. Fuller was the first woman to kick and score in a Power 5 college football game and an advocate for athletes’ mental health.

There are still hurdles for some students. Numerous

YSU student-athletes come from other countries and their study visas make it difficult to take NIL deals.

“When they come over, their visa is like a study visa. So, the only work they’re allowed to do is on-campus work for 20 hours or less,” Burke said. “NIL deals are technically considered work, they would jeopardize their visa status.”

Burke said international student-athletes who want to take NIL deals can partner with companies — including American companies — when they’re back home and take full advantage of NIL rules.

Csernyik said she believes the NIL rules will only improve the world of college sports — and not just for athletes at large-market schools. She’s created relationships and partnerships with brands and athletes all over the country.

“With my course load and with 20-hour practice weeks, you can’t really hold onto a job,” Csernyik said. “It’s nice to have something that I can fall back on in a way that I have been given the opportunity and the platform to do so.”

If businesses want to partner with YSU athletes, they can visit the YSU marketplace and pick which athletes they would like to work with.

Getting into Christmas cheer with OCF

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Winter break is coming up and many students of different faiths are preparing to celebrate the holidays. Some Eastern Orthodox students are members of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, a Youngstown State University student organization.

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship is a national organization for Eastern Orthodox students but is open to all. Junior nursing major Maria Tsarnas is the organization's president at YSU and a member of the Greek Orthodox Church. Tsarnas said she became involved with the OCF after her priest encouraged her to join.

"[YSU] had an OCF chapter that was pretty active years and years ago, and it was basically a non-active organization listed at YSU — so, I didn't have to start it up or anything — my priest just said, 'Hey, we haven't had an active OCF for years, I really think you'd be great to get it going again,' and that's basically how I became president of the OCF," Tsarnas said.

That priest was Rev. Steve Denas, a priest at Arch-

angel Michael Greek Orthodox Church, who acts as the spiritual advisor for the club. Denas said his favorite part of working with the club is the students.

"I have to say [I enjoy] the enthusiasm of the students because they're young — for sure they're young — and they have an interest, a sincere interest. Obviously, not every Orthodox Christian student is part of this organization, but whoever does show up has a very vibrant interest in learning more," Denas said.

Eastern Orthodoxy is a denomination of Christianity commonly practiced in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Caucasus mountains and the Middle East. Some countries in which Eastern Orthodoxy is a major religious denomination include Russia, Ukraine and Greece.

Most of the OCF chapter members are from the local Greek community. Tsarnas said that Eastern Orthodox Christianity is tied to Greek culture.

"There are so many Greek Orthodox people, and Greek people are very passionate and very involved and dedicated to their culture and preserving their cultural practices that the faith and the culture are often inter-

twined," Tsarnas said. "Many people believe the reason our faith and our culture have remained so strong is because of the connection between the two."

Anthony Testa, a junior integrated social studies education major, is a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and the OCF. He said many Eastern Orthodox Christians fast for Christmas.

"Most [Eastern] Orthodox Christians fast for 40 days before Christmas. And then once Christmas comes, you go to church and there are a bunch of different services you can go to. You have special meals. A lot of times it's cultural stuff," Testa said.

Testa also said that some Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas on Jan. 6 because they use the Julian calendar.

"Since my church is Ukrainian, we celebrate on Jan. 7. We use the Julian calendar. Some [Eastern Orthodox] churches celebrate on [December] 25 because they use the Gregorian calendar. The only difference is that the Julian calendar is 13 days behind," Testa said.

If interested in joining the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, contact its Instagram @OCF_YSU.



Rev. Steve Denas is the spiritual advisor for OCF and works at Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church.

Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

¡Feliz Navidad! Frohe Weihnachten! Срећан Божић!

By **Gunnhildur Baldursdottir**
Jambar Contributor

The holiday season can mean many different things for international students. Not all celebrate Christmas, and even those who do, might have their winter celebrations with unique traditions.

When I think of Christmas in my home country Iceland, the first things that come to mind are books and chocolate. Part of my family's tradition is also going to the forest and cutting down our own Christmas tree.

Giving and receiving books as Christmas gifts is a beloved tradition known as *Jólabókaflóðið*, or "The Christmas Book Flood." We usually open gifts on Christmas Eve, and many families spend the night reading new books from their loved ones with assorted chocolates.

According to the Reykjavik Grapevine, the tradition likely began during World War II. Because of the strict currency restrictions, imported giftware was limited. However, what Iceland did not lack was paper. So books became the gift of choice and it has become deeply rooted in Icelandic Christmas traditions ever since.

Soma Albert, a junior engineering major from Hungary, said he was surprised when he first heard about Santa Claus in America.

"On Christmas day, it's actually Jesus and the angels that bring the presents under the Christmas tree [in Hungary]. That's how I was raised and what they told us

was part of Christmas," Albert said.

Albert said Santa Claus comes to town on a different date in Hungary. The night before Dec. 6, children place a shoe in their bedroom window, wishing to wake up with a gift from Santa Claus. However, children who misbehave over the year only get a wooden stick.

"Usually on Christmas Eve, we visit a local church with literally the whole family, my grandparents and cousins. The same night, we have a family dinner and open gifts," Albert said. "Then in the next couple of days, we travel around the country to see more family members."

Allison Ramirez Romero, a freshman physics major from Spain who has family in Colombia, said she appreciates the opportunity to celebrate both countries' traditions for Christmas, depending on which she stays in.

"In Colombia, they open the gifts on Dec. 24, at midnight after prayer. So, you spend the whole night dancing and eating with the family. Then, Dec. 25 is just one more day," Ramirez Romero said. "You don't do much because everything is done the night before."

Ramirez Romero said she plans to celebrate Christmas in Spain with her family and friends this year. She said the Christmas season starts Dec. 7, when neighbors come out into the streets to see their Christmas lights sparkling after working hard decorating their homes.

"In the states, you eat dinner on the 24th, then go to sleep and open presents on the 25th. Most people eat

seafood, like lobster or squid, for Christmas dinner and then a cinnamon chocolate pudding for dessert. I love it," Ramirez Romero said.

Aleksa Radenovic, a sophomore journalism major from Serbia, said Christmas in his country is tied with New Year's because Serbians use the Julian calendar.

"We are Orthodox. So, we celebrate Christmas on Jan. 6 and New Year on Jan. 18. Because in Serbia, it's not about to be 2023. It's about to be 7530. So, it's a different calendar as well," said Radenovic.

Radenovic said instead of Santa Claus, Serbian children wait for St. Nicholas, who brings gifts under the Christmas tree on New Year's night. He added that St. Nicholas is known as a symbol of change because with a new year comes, new opportunities to do things differently than the past year.

While Americans celebrate Christmas in December, Serbians only celebrate a festival called Solstice. They also fast, eating mostly fish and vegetables, in preparation for their Christmas – which isn't until January.

"It's a soul festival where people who have passed away from your life, mostly family members, are welcome back for dinner. You have this huge feast, and you kind of imagine they're there with you," said Radenovic.

However you and your loved ones celebrate Christmas or winter events, we at The Jambar wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!



Gunnhildur Baldursdottir's family picking up a Christmas tree.

Photo by Gunnhildur Baldursdottir / The Jambar

JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR



The Youngstown community gets into the joyful winter celebrations at the Flea on Phelps.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

Spreading holiday festivity

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

Cheerful music flowed through the chilly air in downtown Youngstown for its Holiday Light-Up Night and the Flea on Phelps celebrations Dec 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. with the parade starting at 6 p.m.

The Holiday Light-Up Night kicked off winter celebrations with the Youngstown community enjoying many activities, which included seeing over 60 vendors for the Flea on Phelps and watching the parade march downtown with festive floats and 12 high school marching band participants.

Struthers High School was one of the various marching bands participating in the parade. Josh Hawkins, the school's band director, said this was its second year marching.

"It's something the kids get to have a good time with,"

Hawkins said. "We get to dress up and just play fun Christmas music and be downtown."

Hawkins said he enjoys being involved in events like the parade because it's something everybody in the community can have fun with and look forward to having a good time.

"It's just nice that the Youngstown community has something to come downtown and get excited about," Hawkins said. "It's really cool to have something like this in our community where all the different suburbs and stuff can get together."

Elena Labra, a local business owner of Staircase Ceramics, has been a vendor at the Flea for about three years. Labra said being at the Flea on Phelps is like being in a movie because of the decorations and feeling the holiday spirit in the air.

"I describe this as like a Hallmark movie. It's just amazing being here," Labra said. "It's just super cool to

see Youngstown literally lit up. It's just beautiful."

Labra said she was looking forward to sharing her new work and style with the people in the community.

Alison Green, owner of Atomic Tangerine, was another local small business owner who set up shop at the Flea. Green's business takes old crochet blankets that usually end up in landfills and turns them into new items.

Green said this is her first time being at the Flea on Phelps and likes coming to Youngstown to sell her crochet crafts.

"I do market sales every weekend across Ohio and the Youngstown ones are always my favorite," Green said. "I'm very excited to be out here and see everybody in the holiday spirit."

The event wrapped up with the tree lighting which will continue to light up the area throughout the holiday season.

A not-so-cold open at the JCC

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

In 2020, the Youngstown Jewish Community Center built an ice rink. Opening each year on Black Friday, the ice rink allows skaters to enjoy winter fun.

Tara Bishop, the aquatic and wellness director at JCC, said the center operates multiple services including Levy Gardens, an assisted living facility, and Heritage Manor, a nursing center.

“The Jewish Community Center is different in that we’re part of the Youngstown Jewish Federation. So, rather than just us, we also have Jewish Family and Community Services,” Bishop said. “[The Jewish Family and Community Services] run grief groups and support groups. So we have a lot from the counseling that is tied into here.

According to the center’s website, its mission is to “create and maintain a standard of excellence in the

areas of social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs for its members of all ages in a Jewish environment.”

Bishop said the rink has allowed people of all ages and cultures to come together and ice skate, has helped connect the community. She explained how the rink was built.

“We [built it] through a grant,” Bishop said. “I just think it’s nice to have something else to do, to be outside. People get cooped up during the winter, especially when it’s cold and it’s dark and they don’t want to do anything. It’s nice, even if you go for an hour, to be outside and moving and just doing something during those winter months.”

Casey Atkinson, the wellness director at the JCC, worked with the ice rink the first two years it was built, she explained what it is like working with synthetic ice.

“It’s definitely an interesting experience, working with synthetic ice. That’s something that was new to

us,” Atkinson said. “The maintenance of a synthetic rink is very different than the maintenance of [natural] ice. We’re in a good spot now that we really know how to take care of the rink.”

Winter events at the ice rink include Hanukkah on Ice and New Year’s Skate. Hanukkah on Ice will be held Dec. 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will have Hanukkah stories and singalongs, food, games and more. New Year’s Skate will be held New Year’s Day, but the JCC will have more information on the event at a later date.

The events are free for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Skate rentals are \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Outside of the winter events, the rink allows free entry for all.

The ice rink is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. as well as Saturday and Sunday from 12 to 6 p.m. For more information about JCC winter events and its ice rink, visit its website.



JCC's ice rink is open for business this winter.

Photo by Samantha Smith / The Jambar



The Hip Hop Club rehearses choreography they created.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Hop in with the Hip Hop Club

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

The Hip Hop Club brings dancers from diverse backgrounds together to innovate and explore the art of hip-hop dance.

The club's president is senior photography major Courtney Blair. She said hip-hop is a genre with technical roots, but a variety of movements.

"Jazz and ballet are the foundations of hip-hop. It's hard hitting and fluid motions, so the whole thing isn't just all in your face. You can have those little spot moments where you have more of a fluid slow dance part," Blair said. "There's a lot of different tricks that go into it, so we'll have tumblers do their tumbling skills and stuff like that."

Blair also said the team works together to choreograph routines, rather than having one person in charge.

"We don't have an actual choreographer. We come up with [the routines] ourselves to make it more us. Sometimes we will split up into groups. Somebody will come

up with an idea and maybe it will bounce off to somebody else," Blair said.

Junior criminal justice major, Sabra Nicopolis, is the club's vice president. She said there is both a performance and competition team in the Hip Hop Club, each with different roles.

"[The competition team] travels to other competitions and then versus their other hip-hop teams or dance teams," Nicopolis said. "[The performance team] does a bunch of campus stuff like Penguin Preview Day, [and] Homecoming."

The club is preparing to host its own competition at Youngstown State University this year and has been invited to travel to competitions next spring semester.

The dancers in the Hip Hop Club come from many different backgrounds. Nicopolis said her background in cheer inspired her to try out for the club, but anyone can audition.

"I cheered my whole life and then I found out about the Hip Hop Club. I tried out and fell in love with it," Nicopolis said. "You don't have to have any dance ex-

perience at all, it's just if you want to dance anybody is welcome."

Kathleen Brunner, a senior forensic science major, is the treasurer of the organization. She said she was able to reconnect with her hip-hop background in the club.

"I've been dancing since I was three. I actually grew up in a studio that was mostly hip-hop. I knew I wanted to try dance in college because it took up a huge part of my life," Brunner said. "Even though I wasn't a dance major, I still wanted that in my life. I was able to reconnect with hip-hop when I started here."

The Hip Hop Club holds auditions every fall semester. Brunner said she encourages anyone interested to try out.

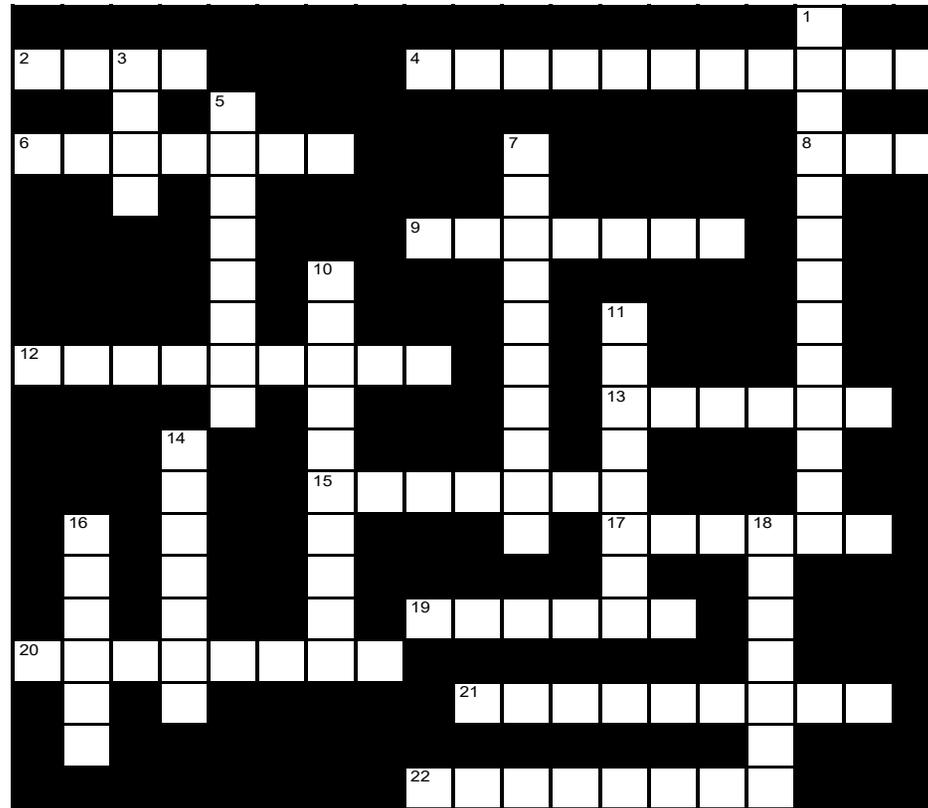
"It's a good space if you like to dance. It's a group that just likes to dance. It's not a huge time commitment, so it's not really interfering with school. It's good to stay active, too. I've made a lot of new friends from being on the team," Brunner said.

For more information on the Hip Hop Club, email Blair at cmblair01@student.yzu.edu.

Graduation Crossword

Across

- 2 Noun; A loose cloak indicating one's profession or status. Commonly worn by a student who is graduating. (4)
- 4 Noun; An official document used to identify an individual who has commonly completed a shorter program academically. (11)
- 6 Noun; An educational institution commonly associated with higher education. (7)
- 8 Noun; A soft, flat hat, commonly worn by individuals graduating. (3)
- 9 Noun; A type of certificate awarded by an educational institution to show that someone has successfully completed a course of study. (7)
- 12 Noun; The most advanced degree you can earn from a higher education institution. These symbolize mastery in a specific field or area of study. (9)
- 13 Noun; A degree commonly awarded to a student after completing additional years of study following a bachelor's degree. (6)
- 15 Noun; A graduate or former student, especially a male from one particular school or university. (7)
- 17 Noun; A group of strings connected together to signify status following graduation. These are commonly moved from one side to another during the commencement ceremony. (6)
- 19 Noun; Sokolov _____ College at Youngstown State University. (6)
- 20 Noun; A celebratory get-together of people to honor and recognize achievements attained over a period of time. (8)



- 21 Noun; Time passing by while getting closer to a deadline can also be referred to as a ____ (9)
- 22 Noun; Students at YSU can also be called this _____ (8)
- ## Down
- 1 Noun; Also known as a bachelor's degree. (13)
- 3 Verb; To move at a regular pace by lifting and setting down each foot in a repeated order. (4)
- 5 Noun; An annual publication celebrating the accomplishments of those who are graduating. (8)
- 7 Noun; A division of a larger organization such as a government or university. (10)
- 10 Noun; The receiving or conferring of an academic degree or diploma. (10)
- 11 Noun; A half-year term in a school or college. Typically, these last 18 weeks. (8)
- 14 Noun; An individual who presents to a group of people, commonly inspirationally. (7)
- 16 Noun; A job or profession. (6)
- 18 Noun; The highest or oldest classification of a student. (7)

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

The Jambar Column

Graduation is approaching

As the new year approaches, I will be left with only three more semesters before graduation. It seems as if my time at Youngstown State University is flying by.

After I graduate, I'm not sure what I'll do, career-wise. Throughout my whole college experience, I've been extremely indecisive when it comes to career choices.

I'll take whatever comes my way or whatever job is easiest to get hired into. I don't need a fancy job. I would prefer something simple like an office job or a human resources position.

Originally, I didn't plan on going to college but I'm glad I did. Aside from my education and potential career opportunities, college has taught me how to be more responsible, organized and how to properly manage my time.

Throughout college, I started projects earlier and made sure to keep all my class materials in order. I have grown so accustomed to using planners that it's hard to complete my daily activities without one. These are things that I never did in high school.

Despite being unsure of my future career, some things I would like to do include getting my own place and traveling.

I've always dreamed of having a place of my own. I'd feel more independent and free. I can only imagine how exciting it would be to be able to decorate and organize my own home and decorate it with unique lamps. Collecting lamps is something I've been wanting to do lately, but unfortunately my room is small and I wouldn't have a place to put all of them.

I also have always loved traveling, but never really had the money to go far. However, when I was in elementary school, my parents took me to Florida and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The thing I love most about these places was the warm weather.

In Myrtle Beach, there's so much to do

such as shopping in their outdoor mall, going to the beach or visiting the strip. One of my favorite places there was the Hard Rock Cafe.



Hailey Rogenski

In Florida, there's less to do unless you go to the beach or Disney World. I've only been to Disney World once but I've visited Florida twice. When we were in Disney World, we walked all day, every

day, until our legs were extremely sore.

Since I have already seen these places, I don't plan on going back. I would like to start by traveling in the U.S., then begin traveling to other countries. I plan on eventually moving out of the country, so I would like to see new places while I'm still here.

The other places I would like to visit are Tennessee, New York, New Orleans, Louisiana, Boston, Maryland and Salem, Massachusetts. I would also like to see Arizona because of the warm weather. I love big cities, scenic places and places that have historical value.

The countries I would like to visit are Japan, Italy and Switzerland. I love the culture of these countries and the scenery. I'm so excited to graduate and explore the world.

In the meantime, as I wait for graduation to come, I'm going to focus on maintaining my position on the dean's list and focus on getting more experience in different areas so that I can broaden my skills for future career opportunities.

It's been a fun semester being a part of The Jambar. It was a unique experience and I'm glad I did it but unfortunately, I won't be returning next semester.

Farewell, 'Guins and Happy Holidays!

The Jambar Editorial

The Editor: Season Finale

Goodbyes are not the easiest things to do. There are many times when we have to say our farewells, even when we're not wanting to say them at all.

The biggest question I've been asking myself this semester is, "how do you say goodbye to something you care about so much?" As the days dwindle away, I'm still wondering that same question, but the people I've been fortunate enough to meet are the reason why it's hard to walk away.

Before I became a sports broadcasting major, I was majoring in exercise science. While in the program, I didn't feel like I had a reason for being in any class — like I didn't belong. I never had a group of people within the major I considered friends.

However, when I switched to telecommunications, on the first day of my first class, I got to meet Katie Rogers-Vadala who has been my closest friend for the last three years. Without her continuously pulling me along academically, I wouldn't be able to walk or get my diploma.

Over the last three years, I've become friends with many people since joining The Jambar. Some have graduated and moved on in their careers, while some will stay after I'm gone.

I've been able to create bonds with numerous people that have walked through the door. The friendships I've been able to make, I hope remain unchanged.

Part of me feels like it's being left behind because I've loved being able to see and talk to The Jambar staff everyday, sharing our lives and growing close. As the semester clock ticks down, graduating feels like reading the last chapter of a book you wish you could read forever or watching the series finale of your favorite show.

While it was always upsetting to see members graduate, I always knew I'd be

"All good things must come to an end as my story countdown hits zero."

coming back. I knew I'd be coming back to production nights, trips to The Den, rants, jokes, laughs and — most importantly — the friendships that have been priceless.

Nearly every student is filled with excitement knowing all their hard work has paid off after earning their degree, but I am more saddened by everything I will have to leave behind.

The Jambar became the group of friends that supported me and stood by me when I was prepared to battle alone. They were my structure when everything felt like it was collapsing. They were my shoulder to cry on. Everything I needed or wanted, they were there with it. They gave me the feeling of hope, the feeling of love and the feeling of importance that I hope I can feel forever.

As I finish my time at The Jambar, I want to say thank you to all multimedia journalists for all the hard work you've given me. To all editors for sharing numerous laughs and Wednesday Chick-Fil-A trips, to former and current copy editor Laurel Stone and Michael Sheehan for spending extra time with me on sports AP style, to my JambarTV crew for making my imagination become reality and to the editor-in-chief, Elizabeth Coss, for being the best partner I could have to enhance an organization as great as this one with.

All good things must come to an end as my story countdown hits zero. I hope that in my time at The Jambar, I was able to leave half the impact it made on me.

Kyle Wills
Managing Editor/Executive Producer

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**Congratulations
 to The Jambar's
 graduating
 seniors!**

Kyle Wills

Cameron Stubbs

Langley Mackesy

Katie Rogers-Vadala

Krista Ritz

Work with The Jambar

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media positions:

General News Multimedia Journalist
 Student Life Multimedia Journalist
 Sports Multimedia Journalist
 Assistant Copy Editor*

*Must be available Wednesday afternoons

Apply online at thejambar.com

For questions, contact Mary Dota at mfdota@ysu.edu or call 330-941-3094

Note from the Editor-in-Chief on behalf of The Jambar:

In the Dec. 1 edition of The Jambar, multiple inaccuracies were published in a story about graduate student Suman Devkota.

Suman is an electrical engineering major and was initially reported to have been an engineering major.

We would also like to correct the erroneous spelling of Devkota's adviser's last name, Vamsi Borra.

The Jambar also misidentified the conference Devkota attended in the spring. The conference Devkota attended was The Electrochemical Society's 242nd meeting in Atlanta.

Various diction relating to the technology used by Devkota was also incorrect.

We apologize for these errors and will be diligently updating the online version of the story for corrections.

Thank you.

Penguins dominate the “north” poles

By Cameron Stubbs
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University track & field team began its season as it hosted the YSU Ice-breaker presented by Southwoods Health at the Watson and Tressel Training Site on Dec. 2.

The indoor season comes on the heels of an impressive cross country season, which much of the track & field team is a part of.

Highlights of the day included eight event wins — four each from the men and women — with three of the wins breaking school records.

The men’s pole vault was the highlight of the day as it was dominated by the Penguins, as junior Dorian Chaigneau posted a school record, clearing 5.35 meters. Behind him, in second place, was senior Wyatt Lefker, clearing 5.05 meters, and sophomore Elijah Nelson, clearing 4.65m to place fourth.

Chaigneau commented on his start as a Penguin. “It’s pretty cool,” Chaigneau said. “The coach here is good, the group too. Wyatt [Lefker] pushed me a lot during training, he’s pretty good... I’m excited for this year.”

The women also held their own in pole vaulting as they won the event. Senior Erin Bogard won with a 3.95-meter pole clearing jump. Following her was junior Emma Etwiler, clearing a 3.85-meter height, and freshman Malena Schumacher, clearing a 3.55 meter.

Bogard stated how far the pole vault team has come and what she expects for this season.

“The fact that even if I have a bad day, they’re having a great day, I’m just happy for them.” Bogard said. “It’s nice to know that our team this year is going to be really strong.”

Rick Penniman, the assistant track & field coach

and long time pole vault coach commented on how proud he was of both of the teams holding their own in the event.

“It’s pretty awesome,” Penniman said. “Across the board, they showed some pretty good results. A lot of our training is predicated when they get here, all the way up to this first meet, it’s kind of built for them to peak at this one meet going into [winter] break.”

Junior Tye Hunt leaped 7.74 meters to break his own long-jump record. Sophomore Luke Laubacher followed close behind with a 7.08 meter mark for third place. Laubacher claimed his own victory in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 7.94 seconds.

Finishing off the record-breaking day was senior Jakari Lomax who beat his previous school record in the triple jump with a distance of 15.40 meters.

Other top finishers from the men’s team include seniors Mikel Lagaras, Zach Gray and Christian Ford and freshman Trenton Shutters who all finished in third place in their events.

The women’s top performers include Jahniya Bowers who won the 60 meter dash and finished 0.04 seconds away from beating her own school record with a time of 7.29 seconds.

Junior Madison Murry secured first place in the 60-meter hurdle with a time of 8.59 seconds.

Rounding out the winners for the day was sophomore Molly Radcliffe, who won the shot put event with a career best 14.78 meter throw.

The track & field team will not be in action until after the holidays when it travels to University Park, Pennsylvania to participate in the Penn State Nittany Lion Challenge hosted by Penn State University on Jan. 14.

For more information on the track & field teams, visit ysusports.com.



Chaigneau broke the school record.

Photo by Cameron Stubbs / The Jambar

Sport short: Swimming & diving

The swimming & diving teams at Youngstown State University broke numerous YSU records at the Miami (Ohio) Invitational, Dec. 1 through Dec. 3, with three shattered by sophomore Aleksa Radenovic.

Radenovic broke the 200 individual medley, the 100 fly and the 200 fly. Junior Gavin Webb broke his 500 free with a time of 4:25.97 to finish second in the event. He also took home the victory in the 1650 free with 15:25.41.

Junior Soma Albert bested his school record in the 100 back in 49.43 seconds to place fifth. Freshman James Slessor became the new holder of the 100 breast record as he finished in a time of 55.00 to tie for fourth. Junior Gavin Redden lowered his

school record in the 100 free to 45.14 to place seventh.

The men also broke four relay records. In the 200 free relay, the team of junior Rares Druga, senior Wilson Cannon, junior Darren Laing and Radenovic clocked a 1:22.29 to break the record. Druga, Slessor, Radenovic and Laing were the record-breaking squad in the 200 medley relay, clocking a 1:29.57.

In the 400 free relay, Druga, Cannon, Redden and Radenovic broke the record with a time of 3:01.69. Albert, Slessor, Radenovic and Redden swam a 3:16.66 to break YSU’s 400 medley relay record.

Men's basketball secures first Horizon League victory

By John F. Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team fell short in its conference opener against Northern Kentucky University, Dec. 1.

The Penguins started out strong, but fell to the Norse, 77-73, in double overtime at Truist Arena in Highland Heights, Kentucky.

Throughout the contest, the lead changed 12 times with 10 ties within the first 39 minutes of play.

Despite the loss, graduate student Malek Green recorded his third double-double of the season with 21 points and a career-high 15 rebounds. Senior Dwayne Cohill also assisted the Penguins offensive push with 21 points.

Youngstown State rounded out its five-game road stretch against Wright State University on Dec. 4. The Penguins defeated the Raiders in thrilling fashion in Dayton, Ohio, 88-77.

The 66th meeting between the two teams did not disappoint as the Youngstown State offense went to work.

Cohill had a career night, putting up 43 points on 16-of-19 shooting from the floor. His dominant performance did not stop there as he nabbed four rebounds, two assists and two steals along with being a perfect 6-for-6 from behind the arc.

In response to his phenomenal night, Cohill felt that he was in the zone and felt that the points were going to fall.

"I just woke up, and was feeling good, feeling like I would have a good game today," Cohill said

Cohill's performance propelled him to be named the Horizon League Men's

Basketball Player of the Week on Dec. 5. This marks the second time Cohill earned the honor.

With the win, the Penguins improved to 6-3 for the season, marking the second straight 6-3 start for the Penguins. The victory also marked the fourth win in the last six games against the Raiders.

Head coach Jared Calhoun knew the game against the Raiders would be an exciting matchup with the amount of skilled players Wright State has.

"There is a really good team in a really good program. [Senior Wright State guard] Amari Davis. I know him well and I have a lot of respect for what they do there," Calhoun said.

As the men's basketball team returns home, graduate student Adrian Nelson is 13th Horizon League in scoring (13.6 PPG), second in rebounds (9.3 RPG) and sixth in field-goal percentage (.533).

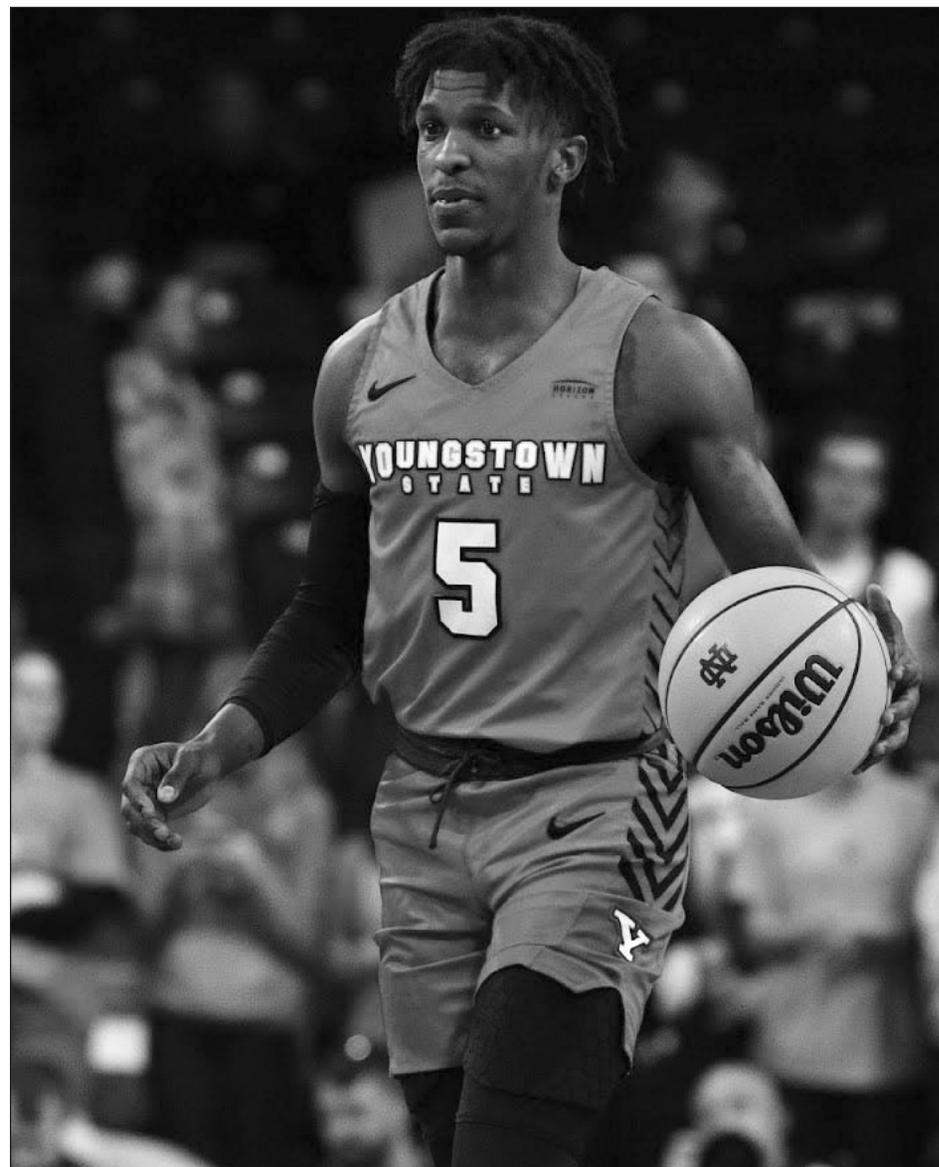
Nelson also reached 800 career rebounds after 11 boards against Western Illinois University on Nov. 26. Cohill is also second in the Horizon League for scoring (17.9 PPG).

The Penguins kick off their three-game home stretch against Westminster College on Dec. 8.

For the Penguins, the goal is to neutralize the Titans offensive attack as three players are averaging 30 points per game.

"We have to do a really good job on our ball pressure and use our length, they are a very skilled team," Calhoun said.

The men's basketball team will also be back in action Dec. 11 against Ohio University. Tipoff is set for 2 p.m., the game can be watched on ESPN+ or 570 WKBN.



Dwayne Cohill leads the Penguins past the Raiders.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes, ysusports.com

'22-'23 Men's Basketball Games

- 7 p.m. Dec. 8 vs. Westminster College
- 7 p.m. Dec. 11 vs. Ohio Uni.
- 8 p.m. Dec. 16 vs. Southern Uni.
- 7 p.m. Dec. 21 @ Central Michigan Uni.
- 8 p.m. Dec. 29 vs. Cleveland State Uni.
- 2:45 p.m. Dec. 31 vs. Purdue Fort Wayne
- 7 p.m. Jan. 5 vs. Robert Morris Uni.
- 2 p.m. Jan. 7 vs. IUPUI

Women above the horizon in conference play

By Kyle Wills
The Jambar

After a needed victory going into conference play, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team continued its winning ways.

The team started its Horizon League schedule with victories over Northern Kentucky University and Wright State University.

The Penguins took the lead with 10 seconds left after a layup from fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz and held on to defeat the Norse on Dec. 2, 59-55. Junior Mاليا Magestro led the way with her second-straight 20-point performance with 21, shooting 8-of-16 overall.

Youngstown State trailed 13-4 after the first eight minutes, but slid its way back to make it a 15-13 game after the first quarter. However, it fell further behind by halftime, 28-21, after shooting 4-of-13 from the field and committing four turnovers in the second period.

Magestro helped fuel the charge in the second half with eight points in the Penguins' explosive 23-point third quarter. Senior Emily Saunders recorded two blocks, in a single possession, at the five-minute mark in the third and finished the next Youngstown State possession, laying one off the glass to cut the deficit to 34-33.

After entering the fourth period tied at 44, the Penguins managed to claim their first lead since the opening basket after two free throws from Saunders with less than four minutes left.

With the game tied at 55 and 10 seconds left on the clock, sixth-year senior Megan Callahan inbounded a pass to Ritz who laid it off the right side of the backboard to take a two-point lead. Magestro sealed the game with a reverse layup at the buzzer to seal the team's 1-0 start to conference play.

The women took that momentum into

Dayton, Ohio with a 27-point opening quarter against Wright State on Dec. 4, defeating the Raiders, 76-62.

Following a Wright State layup to make the score 7-4, Youngstown State responded with a 20-point run to end the period. In the first quarter, Ritz and senior Dena Jarrells each had eight points, with Jarrells hitting back-to-back 3-pointers that extended their lead to 20-4.

The Raiders slowed down the Penguin offense in the middle periods, cutting the deficit 49-35 by the fourth quarter.

The final period was an offensive showcase as each team scored 27 points a piece.

Ritz finished the game with a double-double of 20 points and 15 rebounds, while Magestro had 20 points for the third straight game, including 10 in the fourth quarter.

The women then played West Virginia University Institute of Technology on Dec. 6, surpassing the century mark in points to defeat the Golden Bears, 102-39.

Ritz started the game scoring the first 10 points of the game, leading to 16 first quarter points. Head coach John Barnes said the Penguins' best played basketball came when they pushed the ball under the rim and Ritz took advantage of her early opportunities.

"Lilly obviously did a great job [in the paint], 20 points in six and a half minutes. That's a pretty good ratio, so she did a great job getting us a lead and we were able to go from there," Barnes said.

Youngstown entered halftime with a 63-24 lead after a 34-point second period.

The Penguins came out of the half with another 30-point quarter in the third and eclipsed 100 points after a score from senior Jen Wendler.

Ritz ended the contest with 20 points in only six minutes, draining all eight of her shots and all four shots from the charity stripe. Three other Penguins were able to score in double figures as senior Shay-Lee Kirby scored 13 points and Wendler and Saunders each had 10.

Sophomore Jenna Reppart was also able to get into the game for her first minutes of the season, scoring her first point of the campaign following a pair of free throws in the fourth.

After a rough start to its season, Callahan said the team is starting to play as a unit.

"I feel like we have finally come together as one. There were a lot of different pieces that we had to put together and we're starting to find that spark within each other. Sharing the basketball, getting rebounds and playing our defense has really given us a spark in the last four games," Callahan said.

Barnes said because the starters followed the game plan, it allowed other players to make valuable contributions.

"After the first quarter on, we're rotating a lot of bodies in and out, trying to get our bench players, role players, that haven't played a ton of minutes, get them a lot of minutes and experience out there. It was just fun to see those guys out there having fun and making plays," Barnes said.

The women's basketball team will continue its six-game homestand Dec. 10 when it takes on Canisius College at 1 p.m. The game can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.

